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Socceroo bonanza



England captain Bryan Robson (right) with Steve Tasiros. Robson ribbed Tasiros about Australia's abysmal cricket form.

Top-class games, European tours

By PETER SCOTT

The Socceroos will play a minimum eight full internationals a season, tour Europe every second year and invite the European or South American champion to visit.

The Australian Soccer Federation has agreed to these conditions set by Frank Arok for his reappointment to the national coaching position on Friday.

So says Hungarian sports daily "Nepsport" in an interview with Arok, although we had been led to believe negotiations between the ASF and Arok were far from over.

It's certainly good news if it's all true. We'll know at the weekend.

Maybe, just maybe, the ASF is about to take the plunge and get politics out of Socceroo affairs. The pointer to this rosy prospect is to be seen in Arok's pending appointment as the ASF's coaching and managerial supremo, in full charge of policy directions and personnel appointments of all our national squads, right down to under-16 level.

Of course, on numerous previous occasions people — and good people at that — were put in charge only to realise soon enough that power was firmly entrenched in Sir Arthur George's office. But I am optimistic for the future, and for one very good reason. Knowing Arok, I believe that while he is enough of a diplomat to get on with anyone if need be, he is too smart a bloke to sign on the dotted line without being assured of full powers.

Perhaps when Arok does take over he may come up with a solution to the growing haemorrhaging of our Socceroo talent to overseas clubs.

No-one can begrudge our guys taking contracts with clubs such as Eintracht Frankfurt. But the time has arrived to do something when Oscar Crino can find a four-month stint in Cyprus, of all places, more attractive than playing for an NSL club.

While happy with our own marvellous World Cup effort, Arok still has regrets, and it is a familiar one, according to his interview with "Nepsport".

"If it was up to me we would have played the Scots during the afternoon in Brisbane or Sydney, so they would have to face heat stroke. But, instead, it was put on at night in Melbourne. In spite of rough luck with the refereeing in Glasgow, we could have had a chance at home if our administrators had acted more cleverly," he said.

Hopefully, such decisions will be left in Arok's hands in future.

Iraklis wants Steve Tasiros

By LAURIE SCHWAB

Steve Tasiros, who's been rubbing shoulders with Bryan Robson, Vasili Hatzipanagis, Jesper Olsen and Mark Hughes, may be the next Australian to join an overseas club.

Hot on the heels of Jim Patikas's transfer to AEK Athens and Oscar Crino's move to Anorthosis of Cyprus, comes the news that Iraklis is interested in Tasiros.

The Heidelberg forward or midfielder returned last week after training for two months with Manchester United, Leicester City and Iraklis.

He played in a practice match which Iraklis won 5-0, and afterwards the coaches sounded him out about a move to Greece.

"My ambition is to play as a full-time professional. There's now the chance that Iraklis will fly me to Greece again, all expenses paid, to have a closer look at me," Tasiros said.

He was in England at the time of the Australia-Scotland World Cup clashes and, being an Australian, he had to endure a lot of good-natured ribbing when the Socceroos failed.

They called him "Coole," an abbreviation of Coolangatta, where the Manchester United players were surfing during their 1984 visit.

Bryan Robson, the England captain, delighted in laughing over Australian cricket.

And many at Manchester United picked up on the newspapers' description of the Socceroos — particularly Steve O'Connor and David Ratcliffe — as "rugby players."

Tasiros's stint in England was arranged for him by Heidelberg coach Brian Garvey who knows United's assistant manager Mick Brown, and Leicester's second-in-charge, Gerry Summers.

He had five weeks with United, staying at dig 100 metres from the training ground, along with left back Clayton Blackmore, and one week with Leicester before going to Greece.

About half boss Ron Atkinson, Tasiros says: "He's not a bad guy, but he's a hard man. He drives this huge Mercedes and wears their high fashion track suits."

Tasiros trained mainly with the reserves and youth team, and twice with the seniors.

"All the players encouraged me, and joked around with me," he said. "It was a great experience."

"The pace of the game is much faster and the players' skill and technique are better than here."

"I tried to work on my defensive qualities, which aren't all that good, and on playing first-time, and dribbling only in the right areas of the field."

The Manchester United players all spoke about Alan Davidson, because he had made his Nottingham Forest debut in a 3-2 victory over United.

The Leicester City players all remembered Victor Cristaldo who played there in the youth team and who's now with Melbourne Croatia.

He saw none of the crowd violence which has marred soccer in Britain over recent years, but during a match between United and Liverpool at Anfield, he decided that discretion

Continued page 15

\$1/2 mil debt

The Australian Soccer Federation Marketing company, which promoted major international tournaments in Australia in 1984 and 1985, is over half a million dollars in debt.

ASF has realisable assets of \$7,005, trade creditors of \$545,815 and substantial sums owing to tournament organisers, a situation bound to send shudders down the spines of prospective promoters of Australian soccer.

Nelson Wheeler, chartered accountants, has sent a proposal of payment to ASF creditors, which reads, in part:

The directors of ASF have dissected trade creditors into two categories — (a) Small sundry creditors totalling \$26,998; (b) External trade creditors totalling \$518,817.

Small sundry creditors are to be paid in full once all external trade creditors agree to their proposed repayment in three instalments, the first due 21 days after agreeing, in writing, to the proposal, the second due and payable by December 31, 1986 and the third due and payable by December 31, 1987.



Kaz Kulak — NSW top-liner directs training in Melbourne. See page 5.

Vicente Estavillo is up for grabs

Sydney Olympic transfer-listed Vicente Estavillo (pictured) last weekend, a handful of weeks after signing the midfield maestro from Auburn Uruguay.

"I hope he will be a happier man at another club," said Olympic president Tom Doumani after Estavillo failed to turn up for Olympic's Ampol Cup clash with Canterbury.

Estavillo was unhappy about Olympic's inability to meet the January 31 deadline for the payment of one third of his signing-on fee. According to Doumani, Estavillo was told that the money would be paid a week later but walked out on the club.

Under NSL rules, Estavillo will be able to transfer to another NSL club. He's a former Uruguay international and starred with Penarol and Panathinaikos in a distinguished career.

Olympic has given Estavillo a free transfer.

— ALEX VESIC.

State champs back in Cup

State League champions will join the 24 NSL clubs in contesting the National Cup for the first time since 1981, when the now defunct Hakoah (Vic) reached the quarter-finals.

The draw for the first round will be made late this week or early next week.

The first round will be played on a regional basis.

The State league representatives are:

Victoria: Croydon City.

NSW: Melita Eagles (grand-final winner, taking the place of Canterbury which has been promoted to the NSL).

South Australia: Salisbury United.

Queensland: Ipswich United.

Northern NSW: Belmont Swansea.

A.C.T.: West Woden Juveniles.

Tasmania: Juventus Pioneer.

Western Australia: West Perth Macedonia.



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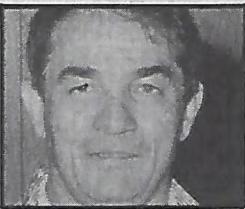
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Australian World Cup Finalist Coach —
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Yugoslav S.O.S.

By
LAURIE
SCHWAB



• Drago Sekularac

Zdravko Lujic this week appealed to the Yugoslav community — especially prominent businessmen — to get behind Footscray J.U.S.T.

"It is our last chance to have a big Yugoslav club in Australia," the J.U.S.T. winger said.

"If we go down now, it will be very hard to come up again. It will be the same as what happened to Yugal in Sydney."

"Our president, Tony Amon, is working hard and giving everything for the club but there are not enough people to help. Everyone from the Yugoslav community must help, or we will be in trouble. What we need is young people to get involved."

"We have a big tradition at J.U.S.T. We have had some of Australia's best players — Stankovic, Micic, Mladenovic, Buljevic, Adamic, Basic, Zorajic. We have won many championships and Cups. J.U.S.T. deserves the support of the Yugoslav community."

"We are waiting for our new coach, Drago Sekularac, to arrive from Yugoslavia, and he has signed up three players. I am sure we will be OK. I am sure he can make a good team, but we need five players altogether. And we need support."

Lujic was speaking from the heart. The 31-year-old former Novi Sad player is in his ninth season with J.U.S.T., making him one of the club's longest-serving players, along with Branko Buljevic, Tom Stankovic and Frank Micic.

He has been caretaker player-coach pending Sekularac's arrival, and in J.U.S.T.'s final Buffalo Cup game, he lost goalkeeper Mark Turudic who was sent off for kicking Shaun Parton of George Cross. In addition, midfielder Areal Pez-Reyes was injured.

"If Seki (Sekularac) saw this team, he would have gone straight back to Yugoslavia," Lujic said.

"Midfield is the biggest problem for

Community must help J.U.S.T. says Lujic



• J.U.S.T. recruit Zoran Nikitovic (standing, right), with Partizan Belgrade in 1979, from left, standing: Stejkovic, Zalad, Djurovic, Lazicic, Kozic, Kunovac, Nikitovic. Front: Klincarski, Varga, Todorovic, Santrac, Prekazi.

the club. No-one can create chances. Osele Latif was waiting for the ball, Bill Lazopoulos was waiting for the ball. But no one could get it up there."

"Ernie Tapai is a very good player but not a creator. He is a good dribbler, he can run for three days and he has a big future, but we need someone for the smart, cheeky ball, like Oscar Crino, or like Luke Bonacic."

He also expects the new players to make major contributions. They are goalkeeper Zoran Nikitovic, from Novi Sad, formerly with Partizan Belgrade; centre back Vojislav Vukcevic from Buducnost and striker Miles Stosic from Red Star Belgrade.

Lujic himself also recommended two Yugoslav players to the J.U.S.T. committee, which however, had to give preference to Sekularac's recruits.

"I think Ljube Petrovski from Preston Makedonia could play in our side 100 percent. I hope Sekularac comes soon so we can get players, otherwise there won't be any players left," Lujic said.

"Every year, Footscray walls, walls and walls for players or for coaches."

"But no-one goes to the small clubs to see if there are good players there. No-one in the league does it."

Sekularac, expected to arrive this week, was a youth coach with Red Star, where he also played. He also coached in

Colombia and had charge of the Guatemala national team for last year's World Cup campaign.

While waiting for him, J.U.S.T. has had a procession of players passing through at training. They have included Danny Ward from Melbourne-Hungaria, Steve Douglas from Albion Turk Gucu and former J.U.S.T. player Joe Picioane, also with Albion now.

Lujic, looking back over eight seasons, names the following 11 as the best who have played for J.U.S.T. over the period:

Dennis Boland — Kyri Kyriakopoulos, Jim Kralis, Jim Koniaris, Igor Hazzard, for Pleione; Gary McDowell, Mirko Ruljevic, Zoran Illoeki — Joe Palinkas, Mendo Ristovski.

And he names Cedo Cirkovic as the best coach. "He worked hard and he worked properly," Lujic says. "Cira's mistake was that he always tried to save the club money by getting cheap players, or building up young ones. But clubs do not wait for results. They like a coach more if he spends \$200,000 on players straight away."

Lujic expects South Melbourne Hellas to be the top team of 1986. "Croatia and Alexander will be good too. Alexander is looking good. Brian Garvey works very hard with them. They lose players but they are still good. Hellas will be No. 1. They played better than Croatia even though they had 20 Hellas players. Brilliant soccer. Jim Evans and Carl Halford was brilliant. If I was national coach, I would give Halford a chance."

Talking about matters concerning the national team, Lujic was in Rudi Gutendorf's national squad, but had only one training match — against the national youth team, at the SCG.

"Only a stupid rule about having to play against Scotland, has kept Australia out of the World Cup," he says. "Arok must now change his team a bit and give a chance to other players, younger ones, like Tapai and Halford. Maybe Soper will come back, and Arnold may be will play. If we had Soper or Arnold against Scotland, instead of Kosminski, maybe we would have won."

Looking to the World Cup finals in June, Lujic expects West Germany, Brazil, Argentina and the USSR to be the leading contenders, with Mexico also giving a chance.

"I don't think France will do much in such a tournament and I don't think Italy will, either."



• Zdravko Lujic — ninth season at J.U.S.T.

Jennings could go back to Olympic

As we went to press, Sydney Croatia was deciding whether or not to pay the \$30,000 fee placed on the head of Sydney Olympic and Socceroo star Graham Jennings last week by the appeal board.

"I wouldn't blame Croatia if they decided not to pay \$30,000 for me, after all, I'm a defender. If the worst comes to the worst I could find myself back with Olympic," said Jennings.

"I thought that I had good arguments to present to the appeal board and I thought I clearly justified the payments I received from Olympic but the board must have thought otherwise. I wonder where all of this will stop? If the defense has his head at \$30,000 then strikers will soon be priced at \$40,000 and \$50,000."

Jennings has been with Olymipic for seven seasons. He was bought from a Newcastle-based team for \$1,000 and has made 43 Socceroo appearances.

Jankovics trying to join Demons

Mark Jankovics and Marconi ended a seven-year relationship last week on a sour note when the club's longest serving player and greatest ever goalscorer was forced to appeal against the \$27,500 transfer fee thwarting his bid to join Blacktown.

Jankovics was tempted by Blacktown's offer of a two-year contract. The 29-year-old former Socceroo was offered a one-year contract by Marconi.

"In many ways Marconi has been very backwards to come to terms with me and the club has been very, very good to me over the years but at this stage of my career I needed the added security of a two-year contract," said Jankovics.

"I'm looking to the future. In some ways though I'm disappointed with Marconi for I feel a player is at his peak between the ages of 28 and 32. Marconi felt otherwise and I'm not prepared to mess around."

"I've been Marconi's top scorer every season since joining from St George for \$12,000. I scored 16 goals last year in just 20 games and I've proved myself as a consistent scorer."

"I hope that the appeal board will look on my situation favorably. After seven years of service to Marconi and at the age of 29, a figure of around about \$12,000 what Marconi paid for me, would be pretty reasonable."



• Graham Jennings of SM-Hellas heads clear in front of Gerry Bennett of George Cross. At rear are Roger Bain (left) and Charlie Egan (right).



• Mark Jankovics (right) tangles with former Footscray J.U.S.T. star Mirko Ruljevic.

Australia may lose Garry McDowell unless the immigration authorities change their attitude.

And if McDowell is forced to return to Scotland, the Socceroos will be deprived of a true champion.

McDowell played for Australia B against China last year, but the Immigration Department has rejected his application for permanent residency.

He remains on a soccer visa which has to be extended every year.

"After four years, they kick you out. I'll have been here for three years in June," the South Melbourne Hellas star said this week.

He has appealed against the Immigration Department ruling, and has the support of the Australian Soccer Federation and former coach Frank Arok who wants him for the Socceroo squad.

"Arok said he was looking for players who can play various positions," McDowell, 26, said.

"If John Yzendoorn had stayed at Hellas this year, I would have been playing central midfield rather than sweeper. John Margaritis told me I wouldn't be stuck on the right anymore, and that he'd be looking for goals from me.

"I wasn't happy last year on the right flank because I couldn't get involved in the

ASF, Arok fight for Hellas star

The set-up is professional."

He has high hopes for his Melbourne team-mates in the national B team — Richard Mirandis, Mike Petersen, Paul Wade and Sean Lane. "They'll continue to try to prove themselves. The main thing is to be there, because it's harder to get out of the national squad than it is to get in."

McDowell played for Hamilton Academicals in Scotland for eight years, three of them as captain, before coming to Australia. John Footscray JUST from where he transpired to Hellas.

But despite his fine form, he never was in the running for the Scottish national squad. "It's a closed shop over there," he says. "Only Celtic, Rangers, Aberdeen or Dundee United players get into the Scotland side. Others get in only after moving to England — like Frank Johnstone."

Obviously, Frank Arok will be making a few changes because people are getting older and retiring," he said. "I'd play in goal if he wanted me to. The atmosphere is tremendous."

He can succeed here where he failed internationally in Scotland but meanwhile, McDowell concentrates on winning everything there is to be won with Hellas.

"We'll be here at the end of the season," he says. "The dangers will be Croatia and Juventus. Makedonia should be there as well, but we'll be the strongest."

It puzzles McDowell that Hellas does not have a better record of producing home-grown players. Of the present 11, only Angie Postecoglou is a former Hellas junior, although there are others, like John Kanesouli and Peter Vardaxis, on the bench.

"Kids here don't seem to be hungry enough to win, to succeed, to strive for the national team. They're too well off. They come along in their big cars and they eat good money. In Europe you try to succeed at soccer in order to make a bit of money."

"I admire John Kanesouli for his attitude. He's always on the bench, but he's a determined little bugger. Said telling me he'll be the captain of Hellas one day."

— LAURIE SCHWAB

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• South Australia's Neville Flounders tackles Korean Kim Jeong Site in Calcutta.



• Charley Villani (centre) is beaten to the ball by East Bengal skipper Turan Dey. Pictures: JOE JANKO

Indian TV audience sees Sth Australian triumph

South Australia's great performances in winning the DCM tournament in India in the off-season should ensure that the State has an exciting 1986 season.

Having been in the dorms for several seasons and unable to find opponents for its State team, the SA Soccer Federation decided to travel overseas to find competition.

After negotiations to tour Japan and Malaysia fell through, the chance came to go to India to compete in the end-of-season DCM Tournament.

On their way to the final, the South Australians ousted two local Indian sides, the Korean holder of the President's

Cup, the champion of China and finally the Indian league champion and Cup holder.

SA was keenly followed by the local public, becoming one of the most popular overseas sides to visit the country.

Their style of play appealed to the spectators and their general friendly nature brought acclaim wherever they travelled.

The squad, selected by SA State coach Mike Wells, was a blend of experience and youth and showed an interesting mix of National League and State League players.

Eleven of the squad were playing overseas for the first time and part of the idea was to give experience to players of national team potential.

Richard Preston of Beograd scored a hat-trick, the first by an SA player in a State game.

Evergreen Tony Nyskohus led the side in fine style, making him one of the finest players in Australia today.

However, SA's success did not rest as much on individual performances as on a solid squad effort.

The DCM All-India Tournament has been in existence since 1945.

In 1969 the organising committee decided to permit overseas teams to participate by invitation.

Since then the trophy has travelled to North and South Korea, Iran, and the U.S.S.R.

Four times sides from Western Australia have participated and in 1984 its State side was runner-up.

Being SA's first visit overseas, it was certainly a wonderful effort to bring back the magnificent DCM trophy.

The competition kicked off at the Dr Ambedkar Stadium in New Delhi on November 28, with 32 Indian clubs vying for eight places in the quarter-finals.

SA, along with sides from South Korea and China plus three leading Indian sides, were automatically seeded into the quarter-finals which started on December 13.

Arriving in India on December 14 after an exhausting 24-hour flight, SA played its first game just two days later against PSEB.

India had experienced unprecedented rain for December and the match was played in extremely muddy conditions.

Taking the early initiative SA was two goals up inside seven minutes. The local side pulled a goal back inside two minutes of the second half but Preston, a second half substitute, put the result beyond

West Adelaide Hellas offered Preston Makedonia \$15,000 last week for Socceroo defender Robbie Dunn yet the latest from the Makedonia camp is that Dunn's services are required and he's not for sale.

Makedonia's stance is a last-ditch attempt to retain its star player but it won't work, according to Dunn.

"My wife leaves next week to start work in Adelaide and I'll be leaving in about a fortnight to start my new job there. If that thing drags on I'll simply keep working and living in Adelaide until it's resolved," he said.



• Mike Wells

South Korea's champion, the Bank of Seoul, looked the most impressive side in the minor rounds, despite being behind SA to go difference.

A draw was enough for SA to qualify, but there was some quick harbelling among members of the party as the Koreans went ahead in 20th min.

SA suffered a major setback when Serge Melts broke his forearm inside five mins but the extent of his injury was not detected until half time.

The sheer guts and determination of this player was an outstanding example to all. Indeed, it was his replacement Adrian Santrac who then became the hero of the day when his blistering free kick from outside the penalty area found the far corner of the net in the 83rd min.

In the semi-final, on Christmas Eve, SA was pitted against the 1984 winner, Liaoing from China.

As national champion with some 15 competitive matches under its belt before arrival in India, Liaoing entered the game as favorite.

With 13 mins remaining, Maxwell, heading for goal, was felled by 'keeper Xu Tao in the box, but as almost everyone awaited the referee's whistle for a penalty, Chris Manou followed up to put the ball in the net.

The final against East Bengal was played on December 27 before a full house of 25,000. The game was screened live on television throughout India and such was the interest generated that the game drew greater press coverage than the second cricket test match between India and Australia.

The Calcutta side was strengthened by the return of three international players, who brought its national team complement up to nine players.

A formidable and popular side in India, East Bengal was national champion and Federation Cup holder and had been narrowly defeated by CA Penarol from Uruguay in the semi-final of the Inter-Club in a penalties shoot-out.

Early on SA, might well have been three goals up, but having let East Bengal off the hook, the Indian side gained confidence.

As the game entered extra time, SA gained the upper hand and despite mounting constant attacks, the vital goal eluded them.

It then needed a penalty shoot-out to decide the outright champion.

All credit to the SA lads who had to play five games in twelve days, while Liaoing played one game less in the minor rounds to quality.

"When I joined Makedonia it was for a lot less money than what was offered to me by Macao. Contract with Macao, I joined Makedonia because I was given a maximum transfer fee clause in my contract. Makedonia paid \$9000 for me and now they've been offered \$6000 more. That's fair enough by me."

Meanwhile, Mike Necoski, Makedonia's prize recruit from Pelister in Macedonia, was willing to be granted a visa to play here while Ron Corry, the club's only signing, was expected to arrive from Western Australia by the end of next week. Midfielder Zoran Iloski still is overseas and is expected back in March.

— CRAIG MACKENZIE

Robbie Dunn defiant

West Adelaide Hellas offered Preston Makedonia \$15,000 last week for Socceroo defender Robbie Dunn yet the latest from the Makedonia camp is that Dunn's services are required and he's not for sale.

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— CRAIG MACKENZIE

McGachey waits, Rankin goes

By ALLAN CRISP

Because of lack of finance, Adelaide City Juventus is unlikely to compete with Hellas's player-buying spree.

Any overseas import or super guest would have to be by courtesy of one of Juventus's sponsors — a prospect not dismissed by new coach Zoran Matic.

With Neville Flounders and Willie McNally now signed after lengthy negotiations, Juventus has retained most of its 1985 squad.

Speedy striker Peter Rankin, now training with Adelaide Croatia, is a notable exception. When Rankin failed to agree on terms with Juventus he was approached by Croatia, Beograd, Camplenton and Campbelltown.

Camplenton suggested a swap deal involving keeper Lou Pivetta. If Rankin is keen to renew his association with former SA Youth team coach, now Croatia boss, Peter Jaksic.

Rankin was leading scorer for the title-winning SA team in Canberra in 1981.

Juventus signed Paul Wilde, another member of that SA Youth squad, but the Azzurri striker will miss the Ampol series after damag-



• Andy Higgins (right), pursued by Ian Dobson of Makedonia.

Move aside or get hurt — Higgins

Frank McGrellis — target of both South Melbourne Hellas and Heidelberg — would be a big hit in the NSL, according to Heidelberg recruit Andy Higgins who played against McGrellis in South Africa.

"He was equal top scorer in South Africa with 22 goals last season," Higgins said. "He's bushy, he's aggressive, he works hard. I'd like to see him come here. He'd do any club a world of good."

While the wait for McGrellis continues, interest is focused on Higgins, the 6ft 4ins battering-ram striker who scored 15 goals in 35 games for Hellenic in South Africa, after stints with Chesterfield, Peter Vale, Roodepoort and United in England.

He alternated between centre forward and centre back in England, but hopes to stay up front in the Heidelberg team.

Talking about his strengths as a player, Higgins says: "I work hard and obviously my heading is my strength. I'm not a good dribbler; I play it one-touch. Players can use me as a wall, to bounce the ball off. I'm aggressive in the box — and I've been penalised a few times for it. If people get in my way, they get hurt!"

"Magic," is Higgins' first impression of Australian soccer. "It's good in South Africa, but I missed the humor there. The South Africans don't have the ability to laugh at themselves."

The standard of soccer in South Australia is comparable with Australia's, but crowds there are much larger.

A total of 89,000 watched the South African Cup final between Fraser Celtic and African Wanderers.

"The blacks are more skillful than players here but they're not as disciplined or well-organised. They play to the crowd. They're not our national game," he said.

Hellenic, beaten 2-1 over two legs in the Cup semi-final by McGrellis's club, Wits University (Richard Miranda's former club), has had many distinguished players over the years, including Bobby Moore, Uwe Seeler, Alan Ball and Roger Hunt. The club is owned by Greeks.

Higgins feels quite at home in Melbourne. He played against Makedonia's Ian Dobson in England; he was a team-mate of Morwell Falconer's Russell Athersich at Chesterfield and Steve Smith had a trial with Rochdale while Higgins was there.

Players who impressed him in the early Buffalo Cup rounds are: Peter Tsaklis (Heidelberg), Richard Miranda (Hellas) and Dobson. — LAURIE SCHWAB.

Soccer City

• Cedo Cirkovic's "Sports Extra" store in Bridge Road, Richmond, has taken over "Soccer City" which was located in Grey Street, St. Kilda, and run by Mike Kupinic.

Cirkovic invites all clubs and individuals who had been dealing with Soccer City to contact Sports Extra at 66 Bridge Road, phone

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• Kaz Kulak — new coach of Polonia (Vic)

By CRAIG MCKENZIE

Julio Avian and Andrzej Zsembery aren't household names in Australian soccer. One day they may be and if that day comes they'll remember Kaz Kulak.

Kulak, recently appointed coach of Victorian State League club Polonia, has an outstanding record in Australia for producing young talent but that record sometimes hangs like a yoke around his neck.

"I have this funny reputation for making players. Clubs seem to think that if they hire me, they'll suddenly find all this young, local talent playing regularly in their first teams but it doesn't work like that. It takes three, four, maybe five years to build a team based on local talent and how many clubs in this country have that much patience?" asks Kulak.

Kulak himself lacks patience, judging by his hunger for success in his first coaching stint in Victoria.

"Yes, I'm a greedy man. I want to finish in first place in State League. Then again, we can't always get what we want. If that's the case, I'll earn then I want to at least finish second."

For a Raskopoulos, Rob de Ceglie, Vince Colapinto, Chris Kalantzis, Terry Patalas and Alex Lambropoulos... Kulak calls them "my boys" in a proud, paternalistic way, not boastfully.

"If they're young enough they're good enough," Tommy Docherty once said to Kulak and the sentiment stuck. Docherty sought Kulak's advice about throwing teenager Kalantzis into Sydney Olympic's first team a few years ago. Kulak said that Kalantzis was ready and that was good enough for the Doc.

"Tommy Docherty is a really great person and as a coach, I respect him for

giving kids a chance. There's a lot of talented young players in this country but not many talented coaches."

Even the national team should start looking to the future and bring in younger players, according to Kulak.

"We must get ready for the Olympics now but really, the Olympics should be part of our preparation for the next World Cup qualifying games. Put Farina in the team. Bring Patikas back to play international games."

"I'm not telling Frank Arok what to do. He doesn't need any advice. His record speaks for itself. I'm only saying what I would do if I were in charge. I would be looking to produce a very different team to the one which has been successful over the past couple of years. Now is the time to rebuild."

Kulak is a salesman, in business and in soccer. There's a Rale Basic type of quality about the man yet unlike the former national coach, Kulak never has been in the position of spending big money on new players. But Kulak is a match for Rasic on the charisma stakes.

"We need big personalities in Australian soccer and even though the National League is far too physical for my liking I'm not worried. Thank goodness there never will be a suitable substitute for skill."

Kulak was a skillful player but he doesn't just hold himself up as a mirror to the men he now coaches.

"In Sydney I played against the APIA of Cliff van Bleek, Stan Ackerley, George Keith, Fil Bottalico, Archie Blue, Ricky Campari and Johnny Giacometti; the Hakoah of Alan Marnoch, Johnny Watt, Henry Mowbray and Willie Rutherford and the St George of Doug Utjesenovic, Johnny Warren and Jim Fraser. Just think about those names, think about how big they were in character and look at what we have now."

"Attie Abonyi is the most skillful Australian forward I've seen. One of the greatest midfielders I've seen one of the

finest men I've met is Jimmy Rooney."

Kulak was 16 when he made his first-team debut for Garbancia Krakow, then in Poland's Second Division. He was there for six years before transferring to First Division club Gwardia Warsaw. Injury forced him out of Poland's squad for the Rome Olympics but he joined Polonia at youth and senior B levels. Polonia Sydney brought him to Australia in 1967.

"The Polonia side of 1968 was really, really good. We missed out on the championship by a point after drawing with Sydney Hakoah 0-0 in the last match."

In 1971, Kulak was Polonia's player-coach but in 1972 he transferred, as a player, to Canterbury for \$2,800. It wasn't long though before his coaching talents called upon.

"Les Scheinfug, who's one of my best mates, was sacked as coach with about eight games left. The Canterbury committee came to my house and told me that I was coach. I didn't want that. Les is my friend. But the committee said that Les already had gone and it was too late to do anything about it, so I became player-coach for those few games."

Kulak switched to Prague in 1973 for \$30,000. He was Baumgartner's Prague's coach. Was he a good coach?

"Les is a really nice person with a great reputation here, a very respectable person."

Scheinfug was relegated that year and amalgamated with Yugal. A stomach muscle injury ended Kulak's playing career.

"Pan Hellenic wanted to sign me but I couldn't get over this stomach injury. I saw many, many doctors but no-one could help."

Then a new challenge appeared. Kulak was offered a job in Indonesia as coach of leading club Jayakarta. He accepted but stayed there for just a year.

"I couldn't stand the climate. There are just two seasons there — very dry and very wet. Les Scheinfug was coaching Western Suburbs and he asked

me to be his assistant. I didn't want to do it. I wanted to break, but you know how persuasive Les is."

Suburbs had a poor year in 1975 and in 1976 Kulak took charge of the first team for the pre-season Ampol Cup. Suburbs beat St. George in the final but hired Archie Blue, a former player, as senior coach. That relegated Kulak to coach of the second grade side. The seniors finished second bottom that year. Kulak's team reached the second grade grand final only to lose to Marconi.

A handful of ambitious club bosses gave birth to the National League in 1977. Sydney Olympic was a founder member of the league but after 10 games, Bruce Stowell was sacked as coach and Kulak hired.

"It was a big challenge to me. Everything was so new then. Everyone was so excited. It was a great time for Australia's soccer."

"The average age of the Olympic team was 22, easily the youngest in the competition but I was very happy with the players."

"Motivation is a very important thing for me. It doesn't matter one bit what a player gets paid if he doesn't believe in himself and his coach. Olympic's first home game after I took over resulted in a 4-0 win against Brisbane City. We'd scored more goals in one game than we'd scored in the previous 10! And Adelaide City was a big team then. We beat them 3-1. They were supposed to have spent \$200,000 on building their team. Olympic had spent just \$10,000."

"I had three Billy Piries I would have finished in the top four for sure. Pirie is the most centre forward and the most professional one that I have seen. He played only seven games for Olympic but scored seven goals."

Kulak had big plans for the 1978 season. He wanted to sign Tony Henderson, Alan Ainslie and Graham Norris. Olympic's committee refused so Kulak quit.

"I wanted to use Henderson as a true libero. I saw Ainslie as my playmaker in



• Kaz Kulak — new coach of Polonia (Vic)

Mentor of Kalantzis, de Ceglie finds new stars at Polonia

midfield, my general, and I saw in Norris the sort of goalscoring ability I marvelled at in Pirie."

From 1978 to 1980, Kulak coached Polonia and switched to Arcliffe Scots in 1981 with just 10 games to go. He saved Arcliffe from relegation. He was director of junior coaching at APIA in 1982 and in 1983 guided Macedonian outfit Rockdale Ilinden to the Second Division championship and a State League berth. But early in the 1984 season he clashed with Ilinden's committee and left.

"The committee wasn't happy with me because there weren't enough Macedonians in the team. I told the committee that I have no favorites. I pick the best team available. The committee didn't accept that."

For the past year and a half, Kulak has been director of junior coaching at Sydney Hakoah, a club he calls the most professional in Australia.

"Administrators at other clubs should go to Sydney Hakoah to learn how to do their jobs. The head coach, Eddie Thompson, is a great person who makes sure that there is very close co-operation between the coaching staff. Eddie is the boss though. No-one tells him how to pick his team. It was an absolute pleasure to work with him and I wish with all my heart that one day this man will be the national coach."

Professionalism is the keynote of Kulak's approach to the task of making Melbourne Polonia a great side. He has held just nine training sessions but is very encouraged with what he's seen.

"The players are working well in training, all of them. I can't ask for any more."

"I'm not going to run them into the ground, that's ridiculous. It's the easiest thing in the world to do but once you kill a player, try to bring him back to see how hard it is."

"And I'm not scared to use good young players. I have a couple already who are very impressive — a boy called Julio Avilan and another called Andrzej Zsembery."

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Country kids flying high

The Victorian Country Region (under 13) squad completed its exhausting tour of Europe with six victories out of 13 games played and a record of 48 goals scored and 28 conceded.

Though the results in the games were not the most important aspect of the tour, they showed that the team gave a good account of itself and made an excellent impression everywhere it went.

The tour began with the long and very tiring flight from Melbourne to Frankfurt, via Kuala Lumpur and Dubai. Then the boys took a sightseeing tour on a bus from Frankfurt to Bonn along the Rhine Valley. Since they arrived early in the morning, it seemed a good idea to keep them going until as late in the day as possible, so that they could pick up the rhythm of European time, but by evening there were some very tired people. Monday was spent in Bonn and on a cruise up the Rhine and then on Tuesday, they went to the Bonn Sportclub where they were joined by their excellent German coach, Bernd Schunk.

For the rest of the week, the boys practised their soccer skills, outdoor and indoor. Bernd was impressed with their enthusiasm and commitment and some of their skills, but concerned that the boys were not as supple or well-conditioned as their counterparts in Germany. This judgement is confirmed by the warm-up exercises shown on video. Perhaps we need to put more emphasis on flexibility and ball movement to complement the more direct soccer skills which the lads have to learn.

During this first spell at Hennel, the team played two games against local sides. Westseling Sportverein were beaten 5-0, while Uwe Haussman's SV Bonner team was annihilated 13-0.

At the weekend the lads took a bus to Amsterdam, where they played SV de Meteor. This too was an easy win by 12 goals.

The lads were loathe to leave Hennel, where Bernd Schunk had done everything he was asked to do and more. The facilities were perfect and once the catering staff learned that the team was not too keen on traditional German breakfasts and supplied cereals and french fries then there was little to fault.

On Friday, October 25, there was an early start to catch the bus to Frankfurt for the flight to London. In London, Peter



• The Victorian Country region under 13 squad, back row: Paul Haliday (coach), Kris Trajanovski, Cameron Price, Peter Sorocuk, Tyler Ford, Andrew Harris, Derrick Hayes (manager). Middle row: Ian Gordon, Peter Langeveld, Dawson McLeod, Ross Hay, Justin Hayhurst. Front row: Wayne Smith, Daniel Hayes. Missing: Jason McAuliffe, Adam Mori, Leigh Allan.

Tour details

Results of the Victorian country region under 13s European tour:

v Westseling 5-0, scorers: Kris Trajanovski, Justin Hayhurst, Wayne (Skip) Smith, Ross Hay, Jason McAuliffe, Peter Langeveld. SV 13-0, scorers: Skip 3, Daniel Hayes 2, Ross 2, Justin 2, Adam Mori, Kris, Paul McCluskey, own goal v SV de Meteor 12-0, scorers: Kris 6, Ross 2, Skip, Jason, Leigh, Allan, Adam. v FC Koen U-14 0-8 v Dundee United 5-0, scorers: Paul 2, Kris 2, Andrew Harris. v Celtic Boys Club 0-3. v Ayr Boswell 3-0, scorers: Kris 2, Leigh. v Rangers AFC 2-7, scorers: Ross, Justin. v Merioneth 5-0, scorers: Kris 2, Justin, Paul, Ross. v Shrewsbury Wakeman 1-2, scorer: Kris. v Admiral JFC 0-2. v Oldham 1-4, scorer: Ross. v PGL England 1-2, scorer: Kris. Goalscorers:

16 goals Trajanovski, 8, Ross, Ray, 5, Justin Hayhurst, Wayne (Skip) Smith, 4, Paul McCluskey, 2 Jason McAuliffe, Daniel Hayes, Adam Mori, Leigh Allan, 1. Andrew Harris, own goal.

Members of the Tour Party: Leigh Allan, (St George's, Shepparton), Tyler Ford (Boucher Street, Shepparton), Ian Gordon (Eaglehawk, Bendigo), Andrew Harris (Bell Park, Geelong), Ross Hay (Bell Park, Geelong) Daniel Hayes (Bell Park, Geelong), Justin Hayhurst (Newborough United, Latrobe Valley), Peter Langeveld (North Park Rovers, Swan Hill), Jason McAuliffe (Hamlyn Rangers/Bell Park Geelong), Paul McCluskey (Pegasus/Latrobe Valley), Dawson McLeod (Creswick, Ballarat), Adam Mori (Northeast United, Warrnambool), Cameron Price (Kyabram, Shepparton), Wayne Smith (Epsom, Bendigo), Peter Sorocuk (Bell Park, Geelong), Kris Trajanovski (Geelong East, Geelong), Paul Haliday (Coach) (Bell Park, Geelong), Derrick Hayes (Manager) (Bell Park, Geelong).

Reeve, met the group and headed over to Graham Skarfe at Norman Cross during the very long haul to Edinburgh. For a variety of reasons, the lads did not arrive at the Cairn Hotel until after two in the morning which was just too much.

The game against the Hearts Boys Club had to be cancelled, because the lads were too tired. On Monday, the team went north to Dundee, where it met Dundee United Boys Club on an all-weather pitch. Paul McCluskey was the star man in the game with two goals in only 50 minutes. Tuesday began with visits to Ibrox, the home of Glasgow Rangers, and Celtic Park, where Roy Aitken of Celtic and Scotland showed them around. The "Celtic

View" carried an article and photograph of the squad.

In the evening, after a very long spell on their feet in the city, the lads met Celtic Boys Club at Scotstoun Showgrounds under lights. Celtic was a very strong and skilful side and ran out a 3-0 winner. As so often happened, the big name then overawed the lads in the first half, but in the second they hit back well. Paul McCluskey had a shot cleared off the line. Ross Hay crossed the outside of the post, and then chipped the keeper only to have the full back head the ball away just as it was about to go in. Given that his great-grandfather played for Celtic, this was one team against which Ross would have loved to score.

That night the lads joined the families of the Ayr Boswell

team, who had a game against the squad attended by the local Mayor.

On Monday, they played Stewbury Wakeman school, which was the low point of the tour on the playing side. Overconfidence and tiredness saw a 5-2 defeat.

Next day, Guy Fawkes day, began with visits to Goodison Park, home of Everton and Anfield, where the boys met Bob Paisley and several of the Liverpool players. In the evening, the team played Admiral J.F.C. under 15s and went down narrowly by 2-0.

On Wednesday, the team returned to Manchester for some shopping and a game against Willie Donachie's Oldham Youth Club. Players on opening astroturf this game followed the usual pattern, with the lads going for goal and then fighting back with an excellent goal by Ross Hay.

Then it was off to London and the Crystal Palace National Sports Centre for the final leg of the tour. On Friday, the lads went to Wembley, where they had the full treatment with the run up the tunnel to the famous pitch. On Saturday, after sightseeing in London, they went to Chelsea v Nottingham Forest, which was a fast, open game with Chelsea winning 4-2. Kerry Dixon claimed his place in the England team against Northern Ireland with two goals, while David Speedie and Pat Nevin had excellent games, as did young Nigel Clough, son of the famous Brian, for Nottingham. He scored both Forest goals.

On Sunday, the final game against the P.G.L. England team was played on a tarmac pitch, since the astroturf was waterlogged. Though under pressure for much of the game following an early England goal, the squad hit back to equalise with only five minutes to play. Just when it seemed that we could hold out, P.G.L. got the winning goal and we were not disgraced by this loss.

Cameron Price had a first class game in goal throughout, since Peter Sorocuk was suffering from a leg injury. Paul McCluskey played well in an unaccustomed role in the middle of the defence, while Ian Gordon stuck to his task of trying to control a skilful winger.

The P.G.L. coach had expected and demanded a comfortable win, and congratulated our lads on their fighting spirit and commitment. The tour ended with a five-a-side game indoors, in which the teams consisted of a mixture of English and Australian lads, showing the fine spirit in which all games were played.

Polish stars on way; House to Springvale

Jan Wyczyslyk and Jan Kotera are the men Polonia hopes will enable it to challenge for the 1986 State League championship.

Wyczyslyk, 28, is a striker currently playing with Polish Second Division club Korona Kielce. Kotera, 27, is a defender from First Division club Zagłębie Sosnowiec.

But before both players can arrive in Australia, Polonia has to gain permanent residency for star striker Janusz Przybyla. If it fails, only one of the overseas players will be signed.

Kaz Kulak, a former First Division player in Poland, former Sydney Olympic and Canterbury coach and director of junior coaching at Sydney City Hakoah last year, is Polonia's new coach. He replaced Eddie Reid before Christmas. Kaz Kowalew, former Polonia star player and coach, has replaced Doug Gregory as assistant coach.

Polonia midfielder Davie Gibson has been training with Springvale City. His contract with Polonia is up and there's \$4,500 on his head. Defender John Little, up until last week, had trained only trained only once this year, but 1985 best and fairest, Kevin Innes, has been training regularly and Leszek Gregorczyk at last looks like shrugging off the injury problems which have plagued him since Polonia brought him here from Poland two seasons ago.

• Greg House

Guly started its meteoric rise in the early 1980s. You know the sort of comment:

"We're just working hard,

everyone at the club, to try to do a wee bit better than we did last year...."

"We're going about our business quietly. It's a big job and there's a lot to be done...."

"It's heartening to know that quite a few players are showing a bit of interest in joining us...."

McLachlan's mastery of understatement does little to mask the fact that he has big plans for Springvale this year.

Among others, Effie Cassar could figure prominently in those plans. Green Gully also is interested in Cassar but he

litter winger has a good job in Morwell and seems fairly settled there.

Billy Whiteside was about to sign for Springvale as we went to press. Neil Garvey hadn't been sighted at training up until the end of last week; Ian Loughnane, transfer-listed by Fawkner for \$2,500, had been training with the Vales. Ian Wright looks like joining Ringwood United. Steve Tuffield, Fitzpatrick could move to Mornington; Mark Matthews won't be returning from New Zealand; Robin Settle and Eddie Bell have returned from overseas and have been training well.

• George McMillan

• Kevin Lloyd

• Dave Gibson

and don't be surprised to see big Macleod returning to the State League scene.

The former Green Gully, Footscray J.U.S.T. and Croydon goalscorer played with Prahran Celtic last year but looks like being on the move.

Macleod is McLachlan's assistant coach so there's little likelihood of him joining a rival State League club.

• Kevin Lloyd

Lloyd has been training with Heidelberg Alexander. Fawkner coach Peter Boyle was hopeful of signing Lloyd, who played with Green Gully last year on loan from Brunswick Juventus. What we hear is that Lloyd will get away from Juventus to Fawkner for \$3,000 but the asking price will be considerably higher should Heidelberg decide to sign him.

Frank McLean, Boyle's assistant, has fully recovered from the sunstroke which forced him into hospital for a short spell two weeks ago and Ian Tuffield, complete with wide grin and a bow-legged gait, returns from the U.S. on February 28.

• Peter Verechia

Apparently, Ian's been following the rodeo circuit over there and is right into it but if he comes back talking like John Wayne, I'll put him on the transfer list," Boyle quipped.

Bruno Cozzella has made himself available for all training sessions after previously bowing to business pressures, Joe Palinkas has signed a new contract and Boyle was hopeful of Colin Quigley agreeing terms this week.

• Alan Kerr

Kerr has signed Peter Blasby from Macleod Falcons for \$4,000 and Andy Humble from Box Hill. Five Croydon players are transfer-listed: Bill Whiteside (at his own request), Alan Kerr (for \$2,500), Tom Brewerton, Davie Singleton and Gary Bates.

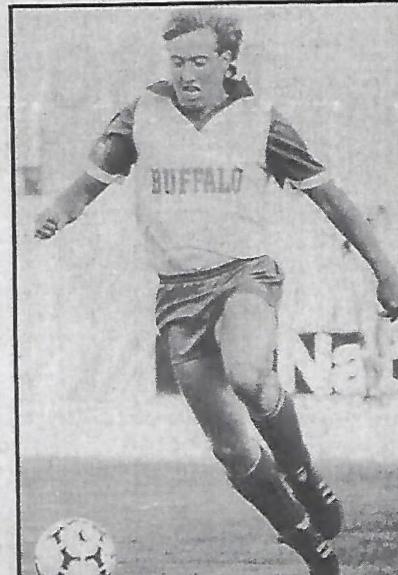
Kerr could join Thomastown; Broadmeadows and Sunbury have shown interest in Brewerton while Moorabbin is rumored to be keen on signing Bates.

• Eddie Bell

Eddie Bell returns from overseas next week.

• Thomastown's new play-coach, George McMillan, who was signed from Preston Makedons for \$5,000, is keen to have Kerr in his side but Thomastown and Croydon haven't reached agreement over the size of Kerr's transfer fee. Thomastown feels that \$1,500 would be a more realistic figure for the former Melbourne Croatia and George Cross player.

Verechia: \$5000



Peter Verechia, (pictured) dynamic striker or midfielder of Victorian State League club Box Hill, is for sale at only \$5000.

He requested a transfer after failing to agree terms with Box Hill.

Verechia, 23, has been Box Hill's top scorer twice and runner-up twice in the past four years.

He has been with the club since he was a junior.

Verechia played in midfield before he moved to the forward line.

He can be contacted on (03) 235 4273 (work) or (03) 878 9648 (home).

Hobson: \$2500

Talented left back Gary Hobson is on the move. Hobson has asked State League club Fawkner to place him on the transfer list. His contract with Fawkner has expired and there's just \$2,500 on his fee.

We understand that Fawkner refused permission for Hobson to train with rival club Springvale City, forcing Hobson to prepare for the coming season on his own.

Hobson, 24, has played at Fawkner for two seasons. He's a former Croydon City player. He can be contacted at work on 561 5022 or at home on 870 2831.

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Platini—a legend, sorcerer and king

World Cup count-down: No. 1-FRANCE by Paul Moon

Magic midfield may bring Cup to Europe

In June, 1984, the French triumphed in the European Championship with a style impressive enough to suggest they could become the first Old World side to win a World Cup tournament staged in Latin America.

But they struggled in their qualifying group, which they eventually won despite suffering defeats in East Germany and Bulgaria.

The form displayed during the 2-0 win over Yugoslavia that clinched a berth in Mexico suggests France is almost back to its devastating best, however.

If so, it will at least provide the World Cup with many of its most exhilarating moments.

France boasts strength throughout its ranks, but it is the midfield which marks it as exceptional.

Michael Platini has but one challenger (Diego Maradona) for the title of most gifted player in the game today, while fellow linkmen Jean Tigana, Alain Giresse and Thierry Tusseau would win places in many World eleves.

French exuberance and flair will gain them the support of many neutrals in Mexico, as will memories of the wretched misfortune suffered during defeat by West Germany in the 1982 semi-final.

That game in Seville was only France's second appearance at the penultimate stage. The first came in 1958, when Pele's Brazil crushed them 5-2.

Through the years, France has reserved a very special place in World Cup history, for it was the energy and initiative of French administrator Jules Rimet (then FIFA president) which paved the way for the first tournament back in 1930.

Success for the "Tricolores" would then be appropriate from a historical viewpoint and certainly the game would benefit immensely if such a magnificent team were to set the trend as we approach the 1990s.

Possible squad:

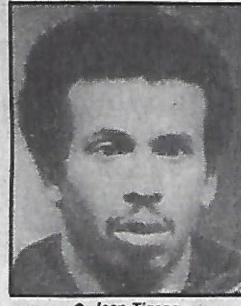
JOEL BATS (Paris St Germain): Appears to have resolved France's goalkeeping problem, which had long been considered a permanent flaw. Born in a rugby stronghold, he is a former youth international and was previously with Sochaux and Auxerre.

ALBERT JUST (Sochaux): A surprise choice as third-string goalkeeper for the successful 1984 European championship finals squad, he won an Olympic gold medal in the same year and is now established as understudy to Bats. He actually kept Bats out of the Sochaux first team when both were with the club, but at the beginning of 1986 had yet to make his senior international debut.

PHILIPPE BERGERO (Toulouse): The likeliest choice for the third goalkeeper's berth in Mexico, despite being notoriously suspect dealing with crosses. His three international appearances (at the time of writing) are well spaced — in 1979, 1980 and 1984.



• France, back row: Bossis, Domergue, Genghini, Battiston, Bats, Fernandez. Front: Lacombe, Giresse, Platini, Tigana, Tusseau.



• Jean Tigana

PATRICK BATTISTON (Bordeaux): A veteran of the 1978 and 1982 World Cup finals (being the victim of that infamous challenge by Toni Schumacher during the second), he can play as full back, stopper or sweeper, but prefers the latter role. Has recently been attached to Metz and St. Etienne.

YVON LE ROUX (Nantes): His power in the air and speed, possessed by France when he was dropped last year, as a result of poor performances in the French league.

MAXIME BOSSIS (Racing (Rennes)): France's most capped player of all time; an accomplished sweeper who joined his present, second division club from Nantes when he served for 12 years. Will be 31 three days before the World Cup final.

MICHEL PLATINI (Juventus): European Footballer of the Year for the past three years. World Footballer of the Year during past two years; it would be appropriate for this brilliant attacking midfield player to cap his career with a World Cup winners' medal. Played for Nancy-Lorraine and St. Etienne before moving to Juventus in a \$3 million transfer deal during 1982, then inspired the famous Turin club to the one trophy which had previously eluded the European Champions Cup. He will be 31 on June 23.

THIERRY TUSSEAU (Bordeaux): Commenced international career as full back, but is now usually employed in midfield. His transfer from Nantes in 1983 very nearly caused a riot in that town.

JEAN TIGANA (Bordeaux): Another integral part of the famed French midfield, he is a native of Mali (West Africa), but was raised in the slums of Marseille (one of a family of 10). The former Caillais, Toulon and Lyon player will be 31 on June 23 — 6 days before the World Cup final.

BERNARD GENCHINI (Monaco): Out of favor since the 1984 European Championship, but his experience (over 20 caps) and ability should win him a place in the final squad of 22 for Mexico, despite a glut of midfield talent.

BRUNO BELCONE (Monaco): Forceful left winger-cum-striker who appeared in 3rd place play-off during 1982 World Cup finals when only 20. He has been used primarily as substitute of late.

JEAN-FRANCOIS DOMERQUE (Toulouse): A hero of the 1984 European championship, scoring two vital goals in semi-final with Portugal from left back, yet has

On the eve of his team's vital World Cup tie against Yugoslavia, French captain Michel Platini pledged he would end a barren period of almost a year without scoring a goal for his country. The following night, he kept his word. A masterly free-kick and a stinging left-foot shot carried France to victory and a place in the finals in Mexico and enlarged Platini's international tally to a record 39 goals.

Asked how he produced such inspired goals, Platini replied: "I don't know. I closed my eyes."

It was a simple, typical

From DEREK PARR
in PARIS

ly-disarming answer from a man who has been elevated to the status of a legend in French sport.

Platini, like the favorite French comic-strip hero Asterix, is a star who can be relied on to outwit foreign invaders when danger threatens, a soccer sorcerer with a sense of occasion.

Platini has illuminated the French team for a decade. In addition to the past three World Cup final tournaments, he guided the French to triumph at the 1984 European Championships.

Mexico will mark the end for several of the sea-soned core of players assembled by Michel Hidalgo — but there has been no final word from Platini, now past the soccer player's landmark of his 30th birthday.

Platini played and scored on his debut in Hidalgo's first match in charge against Czechoslovakia in Paris in March 1978 and a World Cup winner's medal is one of the few prizes in soccer missing from his collection.

The man in the number 10 shirt won the French Cup with Nancy and The League with Saint-Etienne before joining Juventus after the 1982 World Cup.

Italian league and cup titles and European Cup Winners' Cup and Champions' Cup wins followed.

He was European Footballer of the Year three times.

Television and advertising contracts earned him a second fortune off the pitch.

Recently Platini flew into Paris and stayed long enough to receive yet another trophy — as the Italian league's top scorer for a third consecutive season — before hastening to a training session with Juventus.

It was a typical episode in the life-style of a man who, last April, was created Chevalier of the Legion of Honour, a tribute to the rare panache of a man who had led France in its conquest of Europe.

WILLIAM AYACHE (Nantes): A member of France's 1984 Olympic tournament winning side, he had made his senior international debut a year earlier and before that was an under 21 representative.

MICHAEL BIBARD (Paris St Germain): Drafted from the successful 1984 Olympic Games team, he has made several senior international appearances at right back without making any great impact to date. Moved to Paris from Nancy last year.

LUIS FERNANDEZ (Paris St Germain): Gifted, Spanish-born midfielder who has been regular choice since making senior international debut in 1982. Paris St. Germain have been his only major club.

ALAIN GIRESSE (Bordeaux): A brilliant, diminutive linkman, somewhat overshadowed by Platini, but whose skill and industry should never be under-valued. A one-club man (he joined Bordeaux in 1985, as a 12-year-old), who made debut for France in 1974.

DOMINIQUE ROCHETEAU (Paris St. Germain): Enigmatic forward, whose explosive form was a major feature of the 1982 World Cup finals. Discovered by St. Etienne, he starred there as late substitute in 1976 European Champions' Cup final — four years before a transfer took him to

PHILIPPE ANZIANI (Monaco): In and out of squad since 1983, he is equally at home in midfield or attack. Joined Monaco from Sochaux in 1984.

JOSE TOURE (Nantes): The son of Bas-sidji Toure, a Malian who played for a number of leading French clubs including Nantes, he possesses magnificent skills and is capable of being the equal of any of Mexico. A member of France's gold medal-winning Olympic team, who has had an extended run as striker in the senior side — but much prefers appearing in midfield.

YANNICK STOPRY (Toulouse): Like Toure, he is the son of a famous ex player who has yet to make anticipated mark at senior international level. A consistent goalscorer for Toulouse and his previous clubs, Sochaux and Rennes. Is a brother of French descent.

DANIEL XUEREB (Lens): Equal top goalscorer in the 1984 Olympic finals tournament, when France won the gold medal. Injuries have restricted his senior international appearances. Speedy, with excellent ball control, he loves to run at defenders. Previous clubs include home town outfit Gardanne and Lyon. The unusual surname is of Maltese origin — his grandfather came from the George Cross island.

HENRI MICHEL (Coach): Capped 58 times by France (including two appearances in 1978 World Cup finals) as a creative midfield player, and late in his career, sweeper, he also won many major domestic honors with Nantes (among them the 1973 French Footballer of the Year Award), before hanging up his boots in 1982.

After a short stint as television commentator, he was engaged as coaching aide to Michel Hidalgo and replaced him upon retirement following the 1984 European Championship triumph. Guided France to the Olympic title on his first international assignment.



• The great man himself — Michel Platini

passing, it is certainly a goslavia, a last-gasp semi-final winner against Portugal and the opening goal in the 2-0 final victory over Spain.

Inevitably he was named player of the tournament.

In January 1985, Platini said there was an 80 per cent chance he would end his playing career in 1986.

After last May's disastrous riot at the European Cup final in Brussels, he said he thought he would stop after the World Cup.

But, for now, France and Platini are happy to focus their thoughts on Mexico.

In the qualifying program, France had a tough time against Bulgaria, East Germany and Yugoslavia in European group four and Platini admitted they had not played well against Yugoslavia. But, he pointed out: "The essential thing is we know we can improve a lot."

World Cup groups

GROUP A: Italy, Bulgaria, Argentina, South Korea.

GROUP B: Mexico, Belgium, Paraguay, Iraq.

GROUP C: France, Canada, USSR, Hungary.

GROUP D: Brazil, Spain, Algeria, Northern Ireland.

GROUP E: West Germany, Uruguay, Scotland, Denmark.

GROUP F: Poland, Morocco, Portugal, England.

How they got there

v Luxembourg 4-0 (away) 6-0 (home), v Bulgaria 1-0 (home) 0-2 (away), v East Germany 2-0 (home) 0-2 (away), v Yugoslavia 0-0 (away) 2-0 (home).

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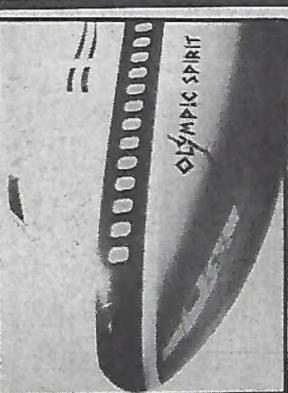
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• Heidelberg's Peter Tsolakis (left), smallest player in the National League, wins a header against George Petrov of Preston Makedonia.



• Charlie Yankos (right), then of Heidelberg, is tackled by Gary Price. Now they're team-mates at West Adelaide Helias.



• Zarko Odzakov — star of Sydney Croatia.



• Sunshine-George Cross, defender Tyrone James, former team-mate of George Best and Bobby Moore at Fulham.

1986 Olympic Airways NSL fixtures

SOUTHERN DIVISION

ROUND 7 — 17/18 May

Bris. Lions v Bris. City
Footscray JUST v Footscray JUST
Heidelberg v Bris. Lions
Adel. City v Bris. City
Prest. Mak. v Bris. City

Wollongong v Wollongong
A.P.L.A. v A.P.L.A.
Marconi v Marconi

Birk. Hel. v Wst. Adel. Hel.

Green Gully v Green Gully

St. George v St. George

Sun. Geo. Cross v Sun. Geo. Cross

Sydney City v Sydney City

St. George (Briss. Side) v St. George (Briss. Side)

New. R. Head v New. R. Head

Wollongong v Wollongong

W. Adel. Hel. v W. Adel. Hel.

W. Adel. Hel. v W. Adel. Hel.

SOUTHERN DIVISION

ROUND 15 — 19/20 July

Bris. City v Bris. City
Footscray JUST v Footscray JUST
Heidelberg v Heidelberg
Adel. City v Adel. City
Prest. Mak. v Prest. Mak.

Wollongong v Wollongong
A.P.L.A. v A.P.L.A.
Marconi v Marconi

Birk. Hel. v Birk. Hel.

Green Gully v Green Gully

St. George v St. George

Sun. Geo. Cross v Sun. Geo. Cross

Sydney City v Sydney City

St. George v St. George

Can. Olymp. v Can. Olymp.

Sydney City v Sydney City

W. Adel. Hel. v W. Adel. Hel.

W. Adel. Hel. v W. Adel. Hel.

NORTHERN DIVISION

ROUND 16 — 2/3 August

Bris. City v Bris. City
Footscray JUST v Footscray JUST
Heidelberg v Heidelberg
Adel. City v Adel. City
Prest. Mak. v Prest. Mak.

Wollongong v Wollongong
A.P.L.A. v A.P.L.A.
Marconi v Marconi

Birk. Hel. v Birk. Hel.

Green Gully v Green Gully

St. George v St. George

Sun. Geo. Cross v Sun. Geo. Cross

Sydney City v Sydney City

St. George v St. George

Can. Olymp. v Can. Olymp.

Sydney City v Sydney City

W. Adel. Hel. v W. Adel. Hel.

W. Adel. Hel. v W. Adel. Hel.

NORTHERN DIVISION

ROUND 17 — 9/10 August

Bris. City v Bris. City
Footscray JUST v Footscray JUST
Heidelberg v Heidelberg
Adel. City v Adel. City
Prest. Mak. v Prest. Mak.

Wollongong v Wollongong
A.P.L.A. v A.P.L.A.
Marconi v Marconi

Birk. Hel. v Birk. Hel.

Green Gully v Green Gully

St. George v St. George

Sun. Geo. Cross v Sun. Geo. Cross

Sydney City v Sydney City

St. George v St. George

Can. Olymp. v Can. Olymp.

Sydney City v Sydney City

W. Adel. Hel. v W. Adel. Hel.

W. Adel. Hel. v W. Adel. Hel.

NORTHERN DIVISION

ROUND 18 — 16/17 August

Bris. City v Bris. City
Footscray JUST v Footscray JUST
Heidelberg v Heidelberg
Adel. City v Adel. City
Prest. Mak. v Prest. Mak.

Wollongong v Wollongong
A.P.L.A. v A.P.L.A.
Marconi v Marconi

Birk. Hel. v Birk. Hel.

Green Gully v Green Gully

St. George v St. George

Sun. Geo. Cross v Sun. Geo. Cross

Sydney City v Sydney City

St. George v St. George

Can. Olymp. v Can. Olymp.

Sydney City v Sydney City

W. Adel. Hel. v W. Adel. Hel.

W. Adel. Hel. v W. Adel. Hel.





BUFFALO SPORTS

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Wests give
Hell
1985 blues

Man of the match:
ANDY ESPOSTO
(West Subs)

West Suburbs 1
SM-Hellas 0
Score: Bobby McGuinness 52nd min.

History is repeating itself for South Melbourne Hellas.

The giant of Victorian soccer lost its first two games of the 1985 Buffalo Cup — to Croatia and Makedonia — and managed only draws with Green Gully and Polonia.

However, it went on to finish top of the NSW Southern Division ladder.

So while Western Suburbs celebrate a well-earned giant-killing victory, Hellas fans do not yet have cause for concern. Better times lie ahead.

The intriguing question is: Can these players lead the league for a third successive season (without Crino and Zvenden) or do they need reinforcement?

Coach John Margaritis no doubt will have a clear answer by the end of the next competition.

In order to cover for Cyprus, Margaritis switched Ken Murphy from his customary left-flank position to cen-

tral midfield, alongside Richard Miranda, with great success. But while Murphy worked like a Trojan, he does not have the flair of Crino. Vlado Bozinovski, pushed out to the left, was replaced at half time by Peter Vardaxis who, however, insisted on playing inside his own half and in front of his full back, until very late in the game, when he finally had a scoring opportunity. No doubt he'll be more confident in his next senior appearance.

More attacking effort will be required from the entire midfield this season, because Egan and Brown will be marked more tightly than ever. Margaritis' two midfield scorers last year in Paul Wade, Mike Petersen and Fabio Incantilupo, will be hard to find similar at Hellas?

Wests are probably still celebrating — especially Bobby McGuinness, a one-time Hellas discard who scored the winning goal in the 52nd minute.

Lest you believe that this was a lucky win, be aware that Wests could have won by three!

McGuinness muffed a close-range chance, as did Jeff Stenson, and both were set up by David Smallman, the one-time Gully reject who moved from midfield to attack from his second match with Wests.

Andy Esposito and Steve Dimovski were flawless in their marking of Brown and Egan, and they were given



Steve Kakantonis
sterling support from George Beattie.

But it was a poor match, marked by free kicks and throw-ins, goals and eight bookings which further held up the game. Of the total 70 minutes, only about 40 were devoted to actual playing time.

The Western Suburbs defence played the offside trap very well, but a brilliant



• South Melbourne Hellas, from left, standing: Vardaxis, Russell, Anazakis, Postecoglou, Blair, McDowell, Miranda, Bozinovski. Front: Kanesoulis, Murphy, Egan, Brown, Laumets, Halford, Mihos. Picture: LES SHORROCK.

crossfield ball from Miranda to Bobby Russell, overlapping on the right, split the back line and a goal seemed certain as Russell's cut-back found Halford's unmarked. Goalkeeper Nick Apostolidis, however, reacted like a cat in making the save.

In the 21st minute, Steve Blair headed the ball square, Egan chased it in, but under pressure and while jumping, he volleyed past the post.

Four minutes later, Wests showed a glimpse of things to come as Smallman put McGuinness through only to see McGuinness fall in a confrontation with goalkeeper Peter Laumets.

Bozinovski galloped down the right in the 30th minute, with Murphy, Egan and Blair called for a cross. Instead, Bozinovski shot from 30 metres, at an acute angle — a contributing factor to his later substitution.

Laumets continued to make mistakes. Murphy came storming in, towards a square ball from Egan but poor communication be-

tween players, resulted in Brown taking the shot. It was repelled to Halford who side-stepped his opponent but saw his shot stopped by Apostolidis.

At the other end, Laumets made a fine save to stop a close-range shot from Stenson, leaving the score sheet blank at half time.

Hellas was forcing all the corners, but Wests rarely looked troubled. Rather, it was the Hellas defence that looked shaky, and McGuinness should have taken advantage by crossing to unmarked Steve Kakantonis in the 50th minute, rather than trying a long-range angled shot that inevitably failed.

McGuinness made amends, however, when he scored two minutes later, with a perfect low drive after build-up play by Stenson and Smallman.

Murphy repaid by getting past George Lekkas and forcing Apostolidis to make another save.

racing away on a through ball from Brown, shot over the bar.

— LAURIE SCHWAB

Match details

MELBOURNE CROATIA 3 (McIntosh 23rd, Ward 29th, Markova 42nd) **GREEN GULLY 2** (Lewis 60th, 69th) **Crowd: about 2000**. **Referee: Chris Bambridge**. **Cautions: Lucchesi, Cannell (GG); Redding (MC)**

MELBOURNE CROATIA: Runja 7 (Govic 45th) — Deanovic 6, Curcio 7 (Redmond 49th), McIntosh 7, Hannah 7 — Biskic 7, Gojevic 7, Campbell 7, Bonacci 6 — Markovac 7, Ward 7 (Curvo 52nd). **Coach: Miron Bleiberg**

GREEN GULLY: Danys 7 — Vizzini 7, Murray 8, Cannell 6, Drakeford 6 — Luchetti 6, Flavel 5, Carter 7 — Cumming 6, McLennan 5 (Barchella 55th), Paul Lewis 7. **Coach: George Murray**

FOOTSCRAY JUST 2 (Nedelkovski 22nd, Latif 33rd) **HEIDELBERG ALEXANDER 2** (Mc Kin 46th, Katsikidis 69th). **Referee: Evan Venios 7**. **Cautions: Latif (FJ); Metaxas (Hed)**

FOOTSCRAY JUST: Vlachos 7 — Obak 7, L Barakaterevic 7, Karic 7, Ljubic 7 — Brikas 7 (in R Barakaterevic 65th), Belic 8, Tapaj 7, Nedelkovski 6 — Lazopoulos 6, Latif 6. **Coach: Zdravko Ljubic (caretaker)**

HEIDELBERG ALEXANDER: Oliver 7 — McKie 7, Hunter 6, Marley 8, Kersakidis 7 — Salimidis 6, Christopoulos 6, Maxxas 7, Higgins 4, Deligiannis 4 (Tzitzis 47th), Tsakalis 7. **Coach: Brian Garvey**

CROYDON BLASY 4 (Brown 3 Tair 60th), Taylor 3, Tansey 3 — Macdonald 4, Ollerton 7 (Christopoulos 3, half time), MacLean 3, Beech 4 — French 3 (O Shee 50th), Humble 4. **Coach: Peter Ollerton**

SUNSHINE GEORGE CROSS 4 (Parton 5th, Gilder 9th, Lennan 15th, Mitter 68th) **CROYDON CITY 0**. **Referee: Sam Zoumas 7**, **Injured: sub, Chris Bambridge**. **Cautions: Hamblett (C), Tsylis (GC)**

GEORGE CROSS: Kastanos 6 — Taylor 7, James 8, Parton 8, Campbell 8 — Faulkner 7, MacLean 7, Bain 7 — Mitter 8, Gilder 7, Lennan 6. **Coach: John Gardiner**

CROYDON: Blasby 4 — Brown 3 Tair 60th), Taylor 3, O'Reilly 3, Tansey 3 — Macdonald 4, Ollerton 7 (Christopoulos 3, half time), MacLean 3, Beech 4 — French 3 (O Shee 50th), Humble 4. **Coach: Peter Ollerton**

WESTERN SUBURBS 1 (McGuinness 52nd) **SOUTH MELBOURNE HELLAS 0**. **Referee: John Fraser 6**. **Cautions: Murphy (SMH), Kakantonis (WS), Esposito (WS), Dimovski (WS), Mirakanda (SMH), Brown (SMH), Hamill (WS), Lekkas (WS)**

WESTERN SUBURBS: Apostolidis 8 — Beattie 8, Dimovski 8, Esposito 6, McLean 6 — Tuck 5 (McCoskey 63rd), Kakantonis 6, Samson 7, Hamill 7 — McGuinness 7, Smallman 7. **Coach: Jim Konidis**

HELLAS: Laumets 7 — Russell 8, Blair 6, McDowell 6, Postecoglou 6 — Halford 5, Miranda 7, Murphy 8, Bozinovski 4 (Vardaxis 4, half time) — Egan 5, Brown 5. **Coach: John Margaritis**

PRESTON MAKEDONIA 2 (Cole 18th, Smith 42nd) **BOX HILL 0**. **Crowd: about 1500**. **Referee: Bambridge 5**. **Cautions: Dobson (PBM); Henning 7**

PRESTON MAKEDONIA: Traianedes 8 — Roodhouse 7, Dobson 7, Opasini 6, McLennan 7 — Heys 7 (in Brian 53rd), Cole 7, Petrov 6, van Eegmont 7 — Smith 7, Lane 9. **Coach: Bill Murray**

BOX HILL: McKintry 7 — McPhee 7, Davidson 6, McMillan 7, A roadhouse 6 — Azzopardi 7, Hennessy 7 Taylor 6 (Verechia 45th), Burton 7 — Lawler 7, Griffin 5. **Coach: Keith Webster**

BRUNSWICK JUVENTUS 1 (Peterson pen 51st) **MORWELL FALCONS 0**. **Referee: Sam Zoumas 7**

JUVENTUS: Mariana 7 — Durakovic 7 (sent off 54th), Lewis 8, Brown 7, Campbell 7 — Palatsidis 6, Petersen 5, Wade 5, Zinni 5 — Sweeney 7, Incanalupi 5. **Coach: Lee McHenry**

MORWELL FALCONS: Prezioso 7 — Palermo 7, Tulli 5, Brus 7, Tress 7 — Cassar 8, Bas 8, O'Farrell 5 (sent off 58th), McDonnell 4, M. Cassar 55th), E. Cassar 6 — J. van Bas 6, A. Cassar 4. **Coach: Joe Sciberras**

SECTION A

	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
JUVENTUS	2	0	0	3	0	4
CROATIA	2	0	0	5	3	4
W. SUBURBS	1	0	1	1	2	3
GREEN GULLY	0	1	1	2	3	1
Morw. Falcons	0	1	1	0	1	1
Hellas	0	0	2	1	3	0

SECTION B

	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
GEORGE CROSS	2	0	0	5	0	4
MAKEDONIA	1	1	0	3	1	3
HEIDELBERG	0	2	0	3	3	2
CROYDON	0	1	1	1	4	2
J.U.S.T.	0	1	1	2	3	1
Box Hill	0	0	2	0	3	0

SECTION C

	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
GEORGE CROSS	2	0	0	5	0	4
MAKEDONIA	1	1	0	3	1	3
HEIDELBERG	0	2	0	3	3	2
CROYDON	0	1	1	1	4	2
J.U.S.T.	0	1	1	2	3	1
Box Hill	0	0	2	0	3	0

FAWKNER

State League club
Fawkner will play its first main practice match of the 1986 season when it tackles Werribee tomorrow (Thursday) at Smith Road, Fawkner. The match kicks off at 7pm.

LAURIE SCHWAB

Three minutes later

Morwell's star stopper Ennifl Brunner headed Cassar's corner kick just under the bar, where Juventus' full back Durakovic stopped it with his hands. Morwell had the penalty which should have levelled the scores, but Cassar shot weakly, enabling Mariana to save.

Mark Lennon volleyed home a Don MacLean cross to make it 3-0 in the 15th minute.

LAURIE SCHWAB

RICOH
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Cross looking good

Suburbs sign Kalantzis, de Ceglie

By CRAIG MACKENZIE

Sunshine-George Cross should maintain its fine Buffalo Cup record and edge closer to securing a semi-final berth when it clashes with Box Hill tonight (Wednesday) in the second game of a double header at Olympic Park No.1.

The Hillmen will be without striker Peter Verechia, who has a pulled thigh muscle. Verechia also is on the transfer list after failing to reach terms with the club over a new contract. Verechia successfully negotiated a maximum transfer fee clause, a one year contract and no option, however, Box Hill's refusal to pay signing-on fees this year proved a stumbling block.

George Cross should win but there will be no respite for its players before their next Buffalo Cup match for the first team squad heads off to Albury this weekend for a training camp. The players will be staying at Lake Hume Resort and even though coach John Gardner has been known to have a bet now and again he won't be letting the lads run amok on the poker machines.

Western Suburbs will be made to fight every inch of the way against Morwell Falcons in the first match tonight but should emerge triumphant.

Suburbs failed in their bid to sign Dennis Boland, the former Footscray J.U.S.T. goalkeeper (he's set to join Frankston Pines) but has signed another J.U.S.T. "old boy" — Miltin Cirlc. Suburbs paid \$1,800 for Cirlc's transfer from Williamstown however youngster Nick Apostolidis should line up in goal for tonight's game.

Suburbs also have signed 28 year old Scottish midfielder Dennis McLeod, a former Sunderland and Albion Rovers player. McLeod is expected to arrive within a fortnight.

Liam McCluskey is another new face at Suburbs. He scored 17 goals last season for Victorian League club Geelong and joined Suburbs on a free. He's only 19 but Suburbs coach Jim Kondilis is impressed with the young forward.

Lean times

M. Croatia 3
Green Gully 2

Scorers: McIntosh 23rd,
Ward 29th, Markovac 42nd
(MC); Paul Lewis 60th, 69th
(GG).

Some Green Gully fans haven't been happy with form of newcomer Gordon Flavell. More Croatia fans aren't happy with their club signing Luka Bonacic, who guested with Footscray J.U.S.T. last year, and Bonacic himself is rumored to be far from happy.

The story doing the rounds of the press box at Olympic Park last week was that Bonacic has been taking a lot of "stick" from a group of Croatia fans and there even was talk that he might be keen to switch to Sydney Croatia. What a bombshell that would be.

Gully fielded a far stronger line-up than the one which started to a 0-0 draw with Morwell Falcons in the previous Buffalo Cup match. However, there were two big surprises in the Gully side as stopper Steve McLellan moved centre forward and Kenny Drakeford played left back.

The Drakeford saga is far from over if South Melbourne Hellas gets its way. Hellas still claims that it has a hold on Drakeford, who last played there in 1978, and is threatening to take the matter before the ASF. One wonders when, if ever, a club's hold on a player becomes invalid, especially when the player is cleared to play in three other countries, as is the case with Drakeford. One also wonders how strong the Hellas argument will be in court when Drakeford pursues the restraint of trade line.

Man of the Match:
DAVE MCINTOSH
(M. Croatia)

Six minutes later, Robert Markovac did well on the right of the Gully area and surrounded by two defenders. His cross picked out Gary Ward whose well placed low header gave Denys no chance.

Gully looked well beaten when Markovac, running onto a through ball from Gojevic, slammed a low shot past Denys and into the far corner in the 42nd minute.

Paul Lewis's reply in the 60th minute looked little more than a desperation effort. Driven Denys's dreadful pass back went straight to Lewis who rounded McIntosh at the second attempt then slipped the ball between Zeljko Gotic and the near post. Gotic had replaced Mirko Runje 15 minutes earlier with Croatia in complete control.

Flavell played the ball wide to substitute Fab Barichello on the left. Barichello's square ball into the area was sidefooted in by Lewis but any hope of a shock comeback was dashed with the final whistle sounding a minute later.

— CRAIG MACKENZIE

Campelj leads in voting

Voting in the VSF
Buffalo Gold Cup
best player award:

Croydon v Box Hill: 3. McDonald (Croy), 2. Ramos (BH), 1. A. Roodhouse (BH).

Green Gully v Morwell Falcons: 3. Basilevitch (GG), 2. E. Cassar (MF), 1. Krajačić (GG).

Juventus v Western Suburbs: 3. Wade (J), 2. Lewis (J), 1. Cullen (J).

Heidelberg v Makedonia: 3. Tsolakis (H), 2. Dobson (M), 1. Metaxas (H).

George Cross v Footscray J.U.S.T.: 3. Tapai (FJ), 2. Parrot (GC), 1. Campbell (GC).

Melbourne Croatia v South Melbourne Hellas: 3. Halford (SMH), 2. Markovac (MC), 0.5 McDowell (SMH), Hannah (MC).

The programme

FRIDAY, February 5: 1st GAME: Morwell Falcons v Western Suburbs, 2nd GAME: Sunshine George Cross v Box Hill.

FRIDAY, February 7: 1st GAME: South Melbourne Hellas v Green Gully, 2nd GAME: Makedonia v Footscray J.U.S.T.

SATURDAY, February 8: 1st GAME: Heidelberg Alexander v Croydon City, 2nd GAME: Juventus v Green Gully.

FRIDAY, February 21: 1st GAME: Heidelberg Alexander v Box Hill, 2nd GAME: South Melbourne Hellas v Morwell Falcons.

SATURDAY, February 22: 1st GAME: Melbourne Croatia v Western Suburbs, 2nd GAME: Makedonia v Sunshine George Cross.

SATURDAY, March 1: Semi Finals.

SATURDAY, March 8: Final.

Voting in the VSF
Buffalo Gold Cup
best player award:

Croydon v Box Hill: 3. McDonald (Croy), 2. Ramos (BH), 1. A. Roodhouse (BH).

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Heidelberg v Makedonia: 3. Tsolakis (H), 2. Dobson (M), 1. Metaxas (H).

George Cross v Footscray J.U.S.T.: 3. Tapai (FJ), 2. Parrot (GC), 1. Campbell (GC).

Melbourne Croatia v South Melbourne Hellas: 3. Halford (SMH), 2. Markovac (MC), 0.5 McDowell (SMH), Hannah (MC).

Progressive votes:

4 — Campelj (GC)

3 — McDonald (Croy), Barichello (GG), Wade (BH), Tsolakis (Heid), Tapai, Karic (FJ),

Halford (SMH), T. van Baar (MF), Lane (PM), Hannah (Croy),

2.5 — Dimovski, Beattie (WS), L. Esposito (WS),

2 — Ramos (BH), E. Cassar, Train (MF), Peter Lewis (BH), Dobson, Heys (BH), McIntosh (Croy), Parrot, Mitten (GC), Msry (Heid).

1.5 — Gilder (GC),

South Melbourne Hellas v W. Suburbs: 2.5 Dimovski,

Beattie (WS), L. Esposito (WS),

Footscray J.U.S.T. v Heidelberg: 3. Karic (FJ), 2. Marley (H), 0.5 L. Barjaktarevic, Be-

lic (Heid), Tapai, Karic (FJ),

Halford (SMH), T. van Baar (MF), Lane (PM), Hannah (Croy),

2.5 — Dimovski, Beattie (WS), Markovac (Croy),

2 — Ramos (BH), E. Cassar, Train (MF), Peter Lewis (BH), Dobson, Heys (BH), McIntosh (Croy), Parrot, Mitten (GC), Msry (Heid).

1.5 — Gilder (GC),

South Melbourne Hellas v W. Suburbs: 2.5 Dimovski,

Beattie (WS), L. Esposito (WS),

Footscray J.U.S.T. v Heidelberg: 3. Karic (FJ), 2. Marley (H), 0.5 L. Barjaktarevic, Be-

lic (Heid), Tapai, Karic (FJ),

Halford (SMH), T. van Baar (MF), Lane (PM), Hannah (Croy),

2.5 — Dimovski, Beattie (WS), L. Esposito (WS),

2 — Ramos (BH), E. Cassar, Train (MF), Peter Lewis (BH), Dobson, Heys (BH), McIntosh (Croy), Parrot, Mitten (GC), Msry (Heid).

1.5 — Gilder (GC),

South Melbourne Hellas v W. Suburbs: 2.5 Dimovski,

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Dullsville!

more enterprise and positive action than was on view during the scoreless first half.

Azzurri called the dull tune in that period when Birkalla goalkeeper Ante Loncar and defender Tom Duncan reigned supreme.

Rothmans Medallist Terry Hayes broke the deadlock when he speared a drive past David Miller in the Azzurri

goal to send Birkalla into the lead.

John Francis, another medallist, snatched the leveller for Azzurri with a clever back-header before Azzurri midfielder Frank Michelon was red-carded following an incident with Hayes.

The expulsion will rule Michelon out of this week's clash with Adelaide Hellas.



• Maxwell



• Hayes

Azzurri 1 Birkalla 1

Scorers: Francia (A) 75th;

Hayes (B) 61st.

Azzurri, twice winner of the SA Ampol Cup in the past three seasons, will have to improve dramatically on this performance to have its name again engraved on the trophy.

Even allowing for the hot, oppressive conditions, the supporters had a right to expect

more enterprise and positive action than was on view during the scoreless first half.

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SA CUP DETAILS

ADELAIDE CITY JUVENTUS 5 (Vialani 57th and 61st, Maxwell 58th and 72nd, Mullen 76th), ELIZABETH CITY 1 (Kelly 56th). Referee: Bob Kerr 8. Crowd: 2100.

ADELAIDE CITY JUVENTUS: Niscioi 7, Tobin 8, Luongo 7, Higgins 7, D. Alberton (Russell 72nd) Sarrac 8, Vidmar 6, (Cecil 72nd), Maxwell 1, Mullen 6, (Caruso 6), Coates 2, Mullen 6. ELIZABETH CITY: Alan 7, Mullen 6, Evans 6, Butterworth 5, Begbie 7, J. Hughes 8, Kelly 7, A. Knowles 7, (Fuds 70th), D. Edwards 6, K. Hughes 6, (Mottram 70th), Doyle 6, (Edwards 58th). Coach: Bobby Hogg

AZZURRI 1 (Francis 75th), BIRKALLA 1 (Hayes 61st). Referee: Graham Neal 7. Cautions: Thomson (B), Zioa (A).

AZZURRI: D. Miller 7, Illic 6, O. Michelon 8, R. Alberton 8, Kitchin 7, Boofa 6 (Roberts 75th), Francis 8, F. Michelon 7 (send off), DeVita 7, Bojczuk 7, Giannotti 8 (Zioa 69th). Coach: Joe Serafini. BIRKALLA: Loncar 8, Duncan 8, Owners 7, Binning 8, Thomson 6, Burrows 6, (Hamilton 41st, sub: Upton 62nd), Devlin 7, Tobin 7, Woodward 6, Holiday 7, Hayes 8. Substitutions: Hamilton 6 for Burrows 41st, Upton for Hamilton. Coach: Rob Jones

Hunter the first to head south?

By LAURIE SCHWAB

Alan Hunter almost changes his mind about joining Heidelberg-Alexander when he found that Charlie Yankos had left but now that he's made the move, other Queenslanders may follow.

"No-one of my age has switched from Brisbane to Melbourne, and if I do well here, Danny Wright might be the first to join me," Hunter said this week.

"He's the best striker I've ever marked and I predict he'll have a great season this year."

Brisbane City spoke to both Hunter and Wright early this year. Frank Arok wanted to lure Wright to St George Budapest but Wright first wants to complete his electrician's apprenticeship with former Lions star Col Bennett.

It was Bennett, incidentally, whom Hunter replaced in the Brisbane Lions line-up in 1983.

About his disappointment over Yankos's switch to West Adelaide, Hunter said: "I had expected to be playing alongside Charlie. I wanted an experienced guy behind me, which I've never had before.

"My sweepers have been Steve Jackson, Roddy Vasquez, Tony Redmond and Alan Marzalek, guys who are all as inexperienced as I am.

"You can play your own game at right back or left back, but in the middle of the defence, you have to have a team — two players who know each other's game.

"I considered not coming to Melbourne when I heard Yankos had left, but finally I decided that if I wanted to be in the national squad, then it's up to me and me alone.

"Steve Marzalek did not in the expected position in my first game for Heidelberg, against Madeleine, but I think George Christopoulos will be the joint coach.

Hunter, voted 1985 Australian Under 21 Player of the Year, has an equally talented younger brother, David, 18, who has just returned from the Australian schoolboys' tour of Britain.

David, who had six senior games with Lions last season, played left back on the tour and set up the winning goal against Scotland schoolboys. He has entered college in Brisbane, but Everton has offered him the chance to trial there when he is ready. Southampton also is interested.

Alan Hunter started at the age of five with Acacia Ridge in Brisbane and played there right through to senior level until joining Lions in 1982.

In 1980-81, he went to Northern Ireland to visit relatives and played there for the reserve team of Larnac for four months.

Asked to pin-point the highlights of his career, Hunter said:

"Making the top five in 1984 was one highlight, and so was playing alongside George Best when he guested for us.

"He was a genius with the ball. But he was bitter about the way the British press treated him in regard to his alcoholism."

Playing in the 1982 Queensland youth team that won the national championship in Canberra was another highlight. That team included: Frank Farina, Russell Stewart, Steve Jackson, John Kowtan, Steve Glickeray, Ray Junna, Cameron Bell, Peter McClurg, and Danny Wright — some line-up!

Yet despite all that talent, Queensland had only four players selected to the national youth squad whereas NSW, with 10, had 12 to Queensland in the final, had seven players honored.

Hunter himself remains disappointed but has been given a chance in the national youth team and he hopes to make up for it by catching the attention of Soccerroo coach Frank Arok.

He chose Melbourne, Hunter says, because he likes the Southern Division of the NSL, and wanted to avoid having to adjust to a new league as well as a new club.

"I liked Heidelberg because they're a young, positive sort of team and I admire Brian Garvey's methods," he says. Makedonia, Blacktown, George Cross and Brisbane City also were interested in him before he made the move to Heidelberg for a \$16,000 transfer fee.

Hunter was a striker initially and then a midfielder, before going to defence, hence his exceptional skill and his eagerness to go forward.

He was impressed by Melbourne Croatia in the Buffalo Cup, but expects Heidelberg to mount a strong challenge for the championship.

Hunter sells sports insurance for National Mutual and is based at VFL House near the MCG.

ARMIT VIES WITH BELL; PEARSE TO GERMANY

Finding as replacement for Australian under 21 Player of the Year Alan Hunter may not be as easy as Brisbane Lions officials had thought.

Lions sold Hunter to Heidelberg for \$16,000 and are looking towards last year's reserve team (Premier League) stopper Norm Bell as a replacement. But will the step up a grade be too soon for Bell?

Bell, 24, has been at Lions only 12 months after coming to Richlands from Acacia Ridge, the same club that produced Hunter.

The likeable Castlemaine Perkins employee was for many years a fullback but was switched to stopper last season. Bell shows all the power and dominance in the air that was a strength of Hunter's game, but is at this stage lacking that aggression which made "Bilby Hunter" such a ruthless stopper.

"Norm has been a little hesitant at training, but I think that is only because he is playing against his team-mates. Norm knows he will be given first chance at Alan's old spot and it will be up to him to make every post a winner," Lions coach Gordon Arrowsmith said.

Waiting in the wings for his chance at the NSL stopper position is towering Townsville signing Bill Armit. A former State League player, he is bigger and stronger than Hunter and has displayed a mean streak, often so necessary for a successful stopper.

But like Bell, he is slower on the turn than Hunter and lacks the skill and touches that big AI loved to display.

At this stage, Lions are not panicking — but are understood to have put aside some of the Hunter money just in case they have to strengthen the defence.

Meanwhile, Soccerroo David

Mitchell is not the only Austra-

Good start for Matic

AC-Juventus 5 Elizabeth C 1

Scorers: Juve: Villani 57th & 61st; Maxwell 58th & 72nd; Mullen 76th. EC: Kelly 56th.

Adelaide city Juventus survived a shake start to recapture its 1985 Ampol Cup form and give new coach Zoran Matic a fine debut victory.

Juventus owed its success to the clinical finishing of Steve Maxwell, Charley Villani, and Joe Mullen and the questionable fitness of the Elizabeth City opposition.

Juventus always looked the more competent side, but did not find scoring touch until Elizabeth embarrassed its vaunted foe with a Mick Kelly goal 16 minutes into the second half.

Elizabeth went within a whisker of making it 2-0 seconds later, but a lucky clearance was whisked to the opposite and where Charley Villani outpaced the city defence before rounding Beanskool goalkeeper Andy Allen for the lightning equalizer.

Steve Maxwell made certain that a Joe Mullen goalbound shot reached its target later to present the fans with the third goal of the game in as many minutes.

Maxwell, hero of the SA team's DCM Trophy triumph in India, notched his second goal after Villani had expertly converted a penalty.



• Abonyi

But the goal of the match came from hard-running Mullen who dived head-long to connect with an excellent pass from Maxwell.

Juventus achieved its initial 1986 success without captain Bugsy Nyskotus, stopper Neville Flounders and midfielder Brian Northcote (all injured), while Serge Melita was recovering from a broken wrist suffered in India.

Melita is expected to miss the remainder of the night series, but Juventus WILL NOT retain the Ampol Cup without Nyskotus, Flounders and Northcote.

The experienced trio must play if Juventus is to go all the way to the final.

This is evident despite a good debut against Elizabeth by Gary Higgins of Salisbury United and encouraging performances from young Errol Luongo, David Alberton and Colin Miller.

Young Steve Niscioli also provided his worth in goal after being preferred to SA custodian Willie McNally, who last week settled a prolonged contract dispute.

Apart from the early new season sharpness of Maxwell, Villani, Adrian Santrac and Mullen, the most pleasing aspect for Juventus fans is the authority with which Alex Mullen guided his experienced defenders, Luongo and Alberton.

Elizabeth's major consolation is that it led after 56 minutes of determined opposition, but there remains a huge question mark over its stamina during these 80-minute contests.

Abonyi recruits Groome, Dart

By MIKE RENWICK

Attila Abonyi is full of enthusiasm and looking forward to the 1986 season.

However, contrary to the rumors, he will be in charge of NSW State League club Rockdale and won't be with NSL club St George.

"Frank and Eddie are doing such a great job with the seniors," Abonyi said.

Abonyi said he felt once he was not with Rockdale for the coming season.

"I need to have some stability for a while," he said.

"The period before I left the game was crazy — too much movement and no consistency," he said.

After a year's leave from the club game from the middle of 1984 to the middle of last year, he received a cry for help from Rockdale.

The lure of the game was too strong and he responded, guiding Rockdale to sixth place in the NSW State League.

Now the former Soccerroo international striker wants to stay put with the southern Sydney club for at least a year to "build something substantial".

Abonyi had two and a half years at club's starting when he spent six months at Canberra City in 1983 and four months at Croatia in 1984.

"When I had my successful years with Croatia, Melita and Riverwood, I was given the time to do something," Abonyi said.

"I was very disappointed when Croatia sacked me in 1984 after just eight rounds.

"What did they expect in such a short time?"

Abonyi's track record as a coach is almost as impressive as his playing record — NSW State League and with Croatia twice — then Melita, and then he took the re-organized Riverwood to second position on a shoestring budget.

At the time he was coaching Croatia again in 1984 in the NSW State League, he was national coach Frank Arok to be an assistant during the international series involving Juventus and Manchester United.

Despite his sacking, Arok employed him as a valuable aide.

And Abonyi freely admits that it whetted his appetite for international team involvement — whatever the level.

"Being involved with the national sides, and working under Frank at that time gave me a taste of something very special," Abonyi said.

"Just like every player's ambition is to represent his country, every coach's dream is to be in charge of, or to be in-

volved with the national team."

However, he said his taste for the international scene leans more towards the younger sides than the seniors.

"Frank and Eddie are doing such a great job with the seniors," Abonyi said.

Abonyi said he felt once he was not with Rockdale for the coming season.

"I'd love to be involved somewhere with the youth teams — either the Under 16s or the Under 19s — somewhere where an influence can be made on the kids' approach to the game," Abonyi said.

Abonyi said that after the international series he had a "glorious break" from the game.

"It was my first one in almost 25 years," he said.

But unlike so many stars who then seem to drift off into the forgotten reaches of soccer's history, Abonyi came bounding back.

"I'd been hopping around from club to club before the break, and when Rockdale said 'come', I thought, well, I'd like to go there and do something positive," he said.

"To do that, I knew I'd have to stay at least a year, possibly longer."

"And the club has been great, giving me the freedom I need to put my plans into effect."

He speaks with all his old enthusiasm, obviously glad to be back in action with a plan already well formulated in his keen managerial mind.

"I'm just so pleased that things seem to be coming together," he said.

"My target this year with the club is to improve on last year's sixth placing."

He has signed a few new names, such as former Sutherland and St George stalwart Nigel Groome, and another Stark, Paul Dart, in goal.

He's also providing a platform for some returns.

Terry Jones missed the whole of 1985 with a cruciate ligament injury, while it was a car accident that put former Marconi man Paul Doherty on the sideline.

Both will play in Rockdale's colors this year, as will Phil Mikas, an Abonyi favorite, who has followed his mentor from Melita and Riverwood.

Mikas spent '85 on an extended world trek, and Abonyi is hoping that the break from the game — like his own break — will have renewed his enthusiasm for the game.

Abonyi's infectious optimism is certain to be a vital asset in Rockdale's campaign.

It certainly would be just as valuable in the international scene.



• Attila Abonyi (left) with APIA coach

SUPER SOPER!

NSL clubs dominate the 1986 NSW Ampol Cup and after this weekend's matches, should fill most quarter-final berths.

However St George, NSL champion in 1983, is struggling. Its experts are far from fit and its defence shakily without David Ratcliffe and Mike O'Shea.

In Group A, Hakoah looks a good bet to finish in top spot despite dropping a point to Melita Eagles. Fairy Meadow surprised by beating big-spending Blacktown and is settling in for a fierce battle for second spot.

In Group B, Sutherland has been the surprise package. The Sharks took a point from APIA, beat Manly, then slaughtered Freshwater. If Croatia is to qualify for the quarters, it must take both points when it clashes with Sutherland. An outsider for a quarter-final berth is Ku-Ring-Gai.

In Group C, Marconi already has reached the quarter-finals. This fast and entertaining outfit from Fairfield has mauled every foe. Inter Monaro and Canberra are locked in a tussle for second spot.

Sydney Olympic heads Group D, but faces St George and Newcastle Rosebud in its next two games. Nevertheless, Marshall Soper is in devastating form and Olympic should make the quarters, leaving Saints, Newcastle Rosebud and Polonia to fight out second spot.

Polonia's import from Ruch Chorzow, Piejchacek, is expected to arrive from Poland in three weeks time. Let's look at last weekend's Ampol Cup clashes.

Sydney Olympic 2 Canterbury 0

At St George Stadium.

Referee: S. Lovell 9.

Scorers: Phillips pen. 16th, Soper 71st.

SYDNEY OLYMPIC: Meier 7 — Lambopoulos 6, Stankovic 6, Dakos 7, Burke 6 (Spanakopoulos 41st, 6) — Phillips 8, Raskopoulos 8, Johnson 5 — Soper 8, Zeljko 5, Kostic 5, Dragicevic 5, Lovell 9.

CANTERBURY: Hummel 8 — Karapetrov 5, Radman 8, Hantzis 8, Kirwan 6 — Antonopoulos 7 (Mamikovic 41st, 6), Anagnostopoulos 7 (Marijanovic 41st, 6), Malogeras 6, Fiterman 6 — Petas 6, Phillipou 6.

Sydney Olympic defeated new NSL member Canterbury Marrickville but not as most expected, with arrogant ease. It was tough going for almost an hour before Olympic asserted its superiority and through Marshall Soper scored the clincher.

Soper was in devastating form once again and was responsible for both goals. In the 16th minute he broke into Canterbury's penalty area to be challenged by Spiro Hantzis. Referee Lovell awarded a penalty after Soper fell to the ground and Gary Phillips made no mistake with his spot kick.

Then, with nine minutes left, Soper flashed through on the left to face Chris Hummel before scoring with a fierce left footer.

Soper created at least another three chances for his side with the first coming after 15 minutes. He walked past a defender then drew out the goalkeeper before cutting the ball back to Stuart Johnson who was only metres away from the line. But the chance went begging.

Soon after, Soper took a shot but his fierce drive cleared the bar.

Midway through the second half Johnston was the recipient of another Soper pass but his effort from four metres was weak, allowing Hummel to twist like a cobra before collecting the ball inches off the line.

An excited Olympic fan collapsed after this incident and had to be rushed to hospital. He later died.

Olympic must be pleased with the form of Soper, Dakos, Phillips and Raskopoulos, but there is little fluency in its game. Coach Manning Schaefer will have to work hard if his side is to challenge for NSL honors in 1986.

Canterbury's best were John Radman, Spiro Hantzis and Hummel, with John Petas a bright spark during the first period.

St George 2 Uruguay 1

At St George Stadium.

Referee: A. Owens 8.

Scorers: Petkovski 10th, Grbevski 45th (SG), Van Helden 66th (LJ).

ST GEORGE: Gibson 6 — Skeen 6, Ricoy 6, Kocak 6, R'O'Shea 5 — Ozsrag 6 (Moffitt 62nd), J. O'Shea 6, Petkovski 6 — Caban 6 (Belasic 41st, 6), Grbevski 6.

URUGUAYAN: Rosano 6 (Tabernar 62nd) — Jones 6, Hastic 7, Krstovic 7, O'Donnell 5 — Langan 5, Goss 5, D'Amato 5 (Roddas 62nd) — Van Helden 6, O'Shane 6, Olie 6.

If only there was water, lots of clear, cool water...

Standing a few metres from the goal posts during the first half I was able to see better than most the suffering endured by the players.

Intense heat, with temperatures over 30 degrees coupled with humidity, slowed both sides to a crawl.

Roy Cotter managed to create a few openings up front and was responsible for Saints' first goal. He beat a few defenders before nudging the ball past Rosano. It hit the upright and bounced back for Peter Petkovski, who slotted it into the net.

Saints looked to have sealed the match in the 45th after Mich Grbevski strode into the penalty area to shoot past Rosano.

However, John Van Helden pulled one back for Uruguay with 14 minutes remaining and Saints had to battle hard to keep the points.

Sutherland 1 Manly Warr 0

At Marconi Stadium.

Referee: J. McConnel 7.

Scorers: J. McConnel 7.

SUTHERLAND: Archmore 7 — Johnston 5, Parsons 5, Harrington 5 — Sharp 4, Dunn 4, Hughes 6 (5th Half, 6), MANLY WARRINGAH: Jones 8 — Dennis 5, Robin 5, Fay 5, van Dam 5 (Cahill 6), Dick 7 — Marshall 5, Duff 5, van Dam 5 — Dean 7, Davison 5, Edwarson 4 (Etherington 51st).

This would have to be the worst game of the Ampol Cup to date!

I do not wish to detract from the effort put into the game by both sets of players, for there was enough to last the whole season. But no player was able to control the ball, to direct passes with any purpose.

Some of the tackles in this match were earth-shattering.

Scott Hughes (5th) and Ian Fay (20th) were carried off with bad injuries.

Sutherland won with Steve Meades notching the winner after a long searching ball from defence eluded a Manly fullback.

Sy. Croatia 2 Freshwater 0

At Croatian Sports Centre.

Referee: A. Owens 7.

Scorers: Dragicevic 28th, Arnold 32nd.

CROATIA: Woodhouse 7 — Kovacic 7, Ristic 7, Kozic 7, Arnold 6, Dragicevic 5.

FRESHWATER: Petersen 8 (71st Bowman) — Ovrias 6, Poulsen 7, Place 8, Petas 6 — Friend 5, Mudronia 6, Taylor 5 — Sturges 5, Sandtner 5, Rimmer 5.

Croatia cruised to its first Ampol Cup win of 1986 with two first half goals but failed to impress against one of the weakest sides in State League.

Dragicevic and Arnold inspired Croatia with two goals in a four minute spell but from then on the tri-



NSW AMPOL CUP

This week's matches:

SATURDAY

At St. George Stadium, 7pm: St. George vs Budapest vs Polonia, 8.30pm Newcastle vs Rosebud vs Sydney Olympic.

At Marconi Stadium, 7pm: Canterbury vs Marwickville vs Uruguay, 8.30pm Avala vs Rockdale Ilinden.

SUNDAY

At Croatian Sports Centre, 7pm: APIA vs Freshwater, 8.30pm Sydney Croatia vs Sutherland Shire.

At Marconi Stadium, 7pm: Inter Monaro vs Penrith, 8.30pm Marconi vs Canberra Olympians.

GROUP A

At Melita Stadium: Melita vs Fairy Meadow vs Wollongong City vs Marconi vs Canterbury vs Rockdale Ilinden.

At Melita Stadium, 3.30pm: Kuringai vs Manly, 5pm Melita Eagles vs Fairy Meadow.

At Barkly Sports Ground, 3.30pm: Blacktown vs Wollongong Macedonia, 5pm Sydney City Hakoah vs Wollongong City.

GROUP B

At Melita Stadium: Melita vs Wollongong Macedonia vs Hakoah vs Fairy Meadow vs Manly vs Canterbury vs Rockdale Ilinden.

At Melita Stadium, 3.30pm: Kuringai vs Manly vs Wollongong Macedonia vs Hakoah vs Fairy Meadow vs Canterbury vs Rockdale Ilinden.

At Melita Stadium, 3.30pm: Kuringai vs Manly vs Wollongong Macedonia vs Hakoah vs Canterbury vs Rockdale Ilinden.

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Squadra finalizzata

soci cercansi

VIVA ITALIA!

with ROCKY DI ZIO



Joe Caruso, presidente della Juventus, ha finalmente e meritatamente cominciato a sorridere di nuovo dopo almeno tre mesi di grosse preoccupazioni: oltre alle due vittorie riportate dalla squadra su altrettante partite nella Buffalo Gold Cup, nei giorni scorsi Casruso ha praticamente definito i contratti di reingaggio di tutti i giocatori (Zinni incluso) ed ufficialmente perciò la Juventus 1986 sarà la stessa che ha vinto il titolo nazionale l'anno scorso, con la sola eccezione di Miranda che è passato all'Hellas.

Se le trattative per l'acquisto di Yzendoorn dovessero andare in porto (sembra che ormai l'unica soluzione sia per vie legali fra il giocatore e l'Hellas) egli ricoprirebbe la posizione di libero spagnacorda dove per il centrocampista al posto di Miranda. In effetti però non c'è Miranda abbia lasciato un "buco" nella formazione bianconera, perché con lui in squadra l'andamento favorito di Yzendoorn (che rientrato dopo una intera stagione di inattività) fu costretto in panchina per la prima parte del campionato, mentre quest'anno (definitivamente recuperato con un travolgento fine stagione) parte come titolare inconfondibile; ed altrettanto intoccabili sono i suoi colleghi di centrocampo Wade, Petersen e Cullen.

McKendry naturalmente potrebbe provare ad invertire alcuni ruoli, ma gli indici titolari sono definitivamente: Banovic, Peter Lewis, Dowie, Brown,

Campbell, Cullen, Wade, Petersen, Incantalupo; Zinni, Sweeney. Come rincalzi per ora vi sono il giovane portiere Maranama (che la settimana scorsa ha parato il rigore che avrebbe dato il pareggio al Morwell), Rino Minichielo (che in questi giorni dovrebbe riconquistare il posto), Durakovic, Palatini e qualche altro giovane della "Youth" e della U/18.

Purtroppo sia Tony Grbac (gia' tesserato con la Juve) che Paul Trimboli (tesserato con il Brighton) mai decisamente in bianconero hanno deciso di iscriversi all'Istituto dello Sport a Canberra per queste stagioni, perciò la Juve ha momentaneamente perso i servizi di due dei piu' promettenti giovani giocatori d'Australia.

Dopo la parita di allenamento con il Preston ieri sera, la Juventus si appresta ad affrontare il piu' grande impegno di questa copia notevolmente salita in classifica: se contrarre il Croatia che al pari del bianconero ha vinto abbassanza bene le due prime partite e che e' perciò la piu' seria avversaria per un posto nelle semifinali (in programma per sabato 1 marzo).

Italia-Germania

La partita internazionale Italia-Germania Ovest che si giocherà ad Avellino oggi, mercoledì 5 febbraio, (ora italiana) sarà trasmessa in diretta dalla Radio 3EA alle prime ore di domattina (giovedì), ora di Melbourne.

Il programma inizierà questa sera (mercoledì) alle ore 11 con commenti, interviste e previsioni e la trasmissione della partita inizierà alle 12.30; la partita ha ovviamente una grande importanza per la nazionale azzurra come preparazione ai mondiali del prossimo giugno.

Il C.T. Bearzot ha convocato

15 seguiti giocatori: Altobelli (Inter), Ancelotti (Roma), Bagni (Napoli), Baresi (Inter), Bergomi (Inter), Cabrin (Juventus), Collovati (Inter), Conti (Roma), Galli (Fiorentina),

Nancy 1 Paris St Germain 0, Toulon 3 Marseilles 0, Nice 1 Monaco 0, Auxerre 2 Bastia 0, Brest 2, Clermont 2, Toulouse 2, Strasbourg 0, Lyon 2, Metz 0, Dijon 1, Saint Etienne 2, Laval 1, Rennes 0, Nantes 1 Le Havre 0

W D L F A Pt

Paris 18 8 2 5 55 24 44

Nantes 15 8 5 5 39 21 38

Bordeaux 17 7 5 6 33 22 31

Auxerre 17 7 5 6 33 21 30

Monaco 8 14 6 40 30 30

Lens 11 8 5 9 41 36 30

Toulouse 5 2 11 45 38 39

Nice 10 9 5 9 30 34 29

Marseille 9 10 5 9 31 24 28

Nancy 12 4 12 37 38 28

Lille 11 5 12 31 37 28

Le Havre 9 7 12 36 37 25

Strasbourg 9 8 11 35 37 25

Sochaux 8 9 11 35 37 25

Rennes 8 9 13 27 34 24

Marseille 8 7 13 32 34 23

Brest 8 7 13 32 45 23

Strasbourg 5 6 10 25 15 18

Basilea 5 6 13 25 51 18

FRANCE

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BUFFALO SPORTS



PROUD TO SPONSOR

THE 1986 BUFFALO GOLD CUP



STEVE KAKANTONIS

WEDNESDAY 5th FEBRUARY (tonight)
MORWELL FALCONS vs WESTERN SUBURBS
at 7.15pm

SUNSHINE GEORGE CROSS vs BOX HILL
at 8.40pm



DAVID AZZOPARDI



DOUG BROWN

FRIDAY 7th FEBRUARY
SOUTH MELBOURNE HELLAS vs GREEN GULLY
at 7.15pm

PRESTON MAKEDONIA vs
FOOTSCRAY J.U.S.T. at 8.40pm



SEAN LANE



GEORGE CHRISTOPPOULOS

SATURDAY 8th FEBRUARY
HEIDELBERG UTD ALEXANDER vs
CROYDON CITY

at 7.15pm

BRUNSWICK JUVENTUS vs
MELBOURNE CROATIA

at 8.40pm



DRAGO DEANKOVIC

ALL GAMES TO BE PLAYED AT

OLYMPIC PARK No. 1 GROUND

ADMISSION

ADULTS — \$6.00

AGED AND INVALID PENSIONERS — \$2.00

CHILDREN 12 years to 16 years — \$1.00

CHILDREN Under 12 — FREE!!